



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

January 2013  
Volume 17 Number 1  
Whole Number 203

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

9 January 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:00 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifteen members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved followed by the final treasurer's report for 2012. The next topic was the NH Coin & Currency Expo in Manchester February 1 & 2. Also discussed was the White Mountain National Park quarter release and event. Bob F. will email us with updates on the event as they become available. Cliff mentioned an article in the 12/24 issue of Coin World that the Journal of Numismatic Research was available through Wizard Coin Supply. Todd signed up the club for participation in the ANA Coin Week which is April 21 to April 27. Bob F. put out a request for medal designs to showcase on this year's NENA medal. Gary talked about his article in the newsletter and the related items in his upcoming auction at his shop on January 19.

The annual elections followed. Positions remained unchanged with the exception of one VP position. Charlie voted in as the third Vice President. Appointed positions remained unchanged with the exception of librarian. Brian will look into the status of our current librarian and library.

Show and Tell followed with Brian passing around his 1837 Feuchtwanger cent, a 1920 buffalo nickel with a lamination error and an encased Indian cent from the Louisiana Purchase celebration in St Louis from 1904. Ken showed an 1809 5 franc from France while Charlie sent around his 9/11 commemorative medallion. Fred had a very nice 2012 2 euro from Vatican City. He also had the 2012 San Marino Euro set along with the extra 5 and 10 euro coins. Bob F had a good looking 1916 Illinois sesquicentennial medal (3rd design) and a new book from BNS member David Wray titled the Secret Roots of Christianity.

The attendance raffle of \$3.75 was won by Bob F.

This month did not feature a Coin of the Month. Instead Bob did a presentation on exhibiting collections at coin shows. He gave many tips and easy to follow instructions. He broke down the areas of scoring by the judges and how each section works.

The meeting was closed at 8:55PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 13. The coin of the month will be first year of issue coins.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## What Can You Find At A Coin Show For \$1.50

F.A. Liberatore

As it turns out a judicious foreign coin collector can find a lot, especially in a US coin dealer's junk box. For the US dealer they are unwanted items and usually represent pure profit if someone will just please take them off of his hands. To a foreign coin collector they are fascinating treasures even if of little value.

My finds for \$1.50 began with a good condition 10 centime in copper of Napoleon III dated 1862 and mint marked BB = Strasbourg, France. It also bears the engravers mark, an anchor, and the mint director's privy mark, a cross. The coin boldly claims, "Napoleon III Empereur Francais" with his portrait. The reverse has the classic Napoleonic eagle and the statements "Empire Francais" and "Dix Centimes."

Napoleon III was the nephew of the great Napoleon and was made Emperor of France in 1852. France was prosperous under his autocratic rule but he was not astute politically. In 1870 the great German Chancellor, Otto Von Bismark lured Napoleon III's France into a disastrous war. France lost the provinces of Alsace-Lorraine which included the city of Strasbourg. France retrieved these provinces after WWI in 1918.

A lovely French, nickel 1903, 25 centime piece also came in the coin pile. This is a 1 year type, mintage 16 million, and features Liberty as engraved by A. Patey who signed the die. The engraver and mint privy mark are a cornucopia and torch. The same obverse was used in 1904-5 but the simple reverse was replaced with flowers and fasces. These coins were apparently unpopular since the 25 centime denomination was not coined again until 1914 and was a totally new design including a center hole.

A copper -nickel 5 and 10 centime dated 1918 with the center hole, the bold proclamation of "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite" the date and denomination as Cmes were included in my purchase. Their mintages of 35 and 30 million make them common coins which likely came home in the pockets of a veteran of WWI since the war ended that year and they would have been ideal remembrances. Iron coins are unusual since this is not a good coinage metal. It is hard to strike and known for wearing out dies quickly. It does have one great virtue, it is very cheap. Wartime Finnish 1 markaa coins are made of iron. Curiously, the 1943 issue was also struck in copper but not later dates such as 1945 when it is likely the copper ran out. These coins feature a lion walking upright on a scimitar while holding a sword, with the date. The reverse simply has the 1 markaa and nothing else. Finland is NOT identified. Also there is light reeding on the coins, an unexpected step since the metal is not worth clipping. Finland was a semi-autonomous Russian Empire province that became independent in 1918 with the breakup of the empire at the end of WWI and the rise of the communist state. In 1939 Communist Russia under Stalin attacked tiny Finland expecting a walkover. Instead, the Soviet army was bloodily repulsed. A second attack did succeed after heroic Finnish resistance. The Finns received no help from the Western Democracies of Europe since they were at war with Nazi Germany. So, when on June 22nd, 1941, the Nazis attacked Russia, the Finns joined in the attack. Ultimately the colossal struggle turned in Russia's favor and the Finns once again signed an armistice.

My two iron markaa are a visible reminder of those difficult and chaotic times. A Belgian 5 centimes of copper nickel in very good condition was also in my selection. It is dated 1863, mintage 16 million, and proudly announces Leopold First King of the Belgians with the reverse stating the union was made by force (my translation.) There is an upright lion in attack stance on the reverse with the date.

My final two coins included a Finnish 1 pennia made of aluminum dated 1971. The coin is small, the design simple, the mintage huge, 71 million, and the denomination discontinued in 1979 as too small to purchase anything. It is now obsolete since Finland joined the Eurozone.

The last coin is from a country that has struck beautiful, often low mintage coins since 1933, New Zealand. Their decimal coins, issued since 1967 are particularly attractive. My find was a copper 2 cent which features the queen's young portrait with Elizabeth's name, the date 1974, and the country New Zealand plus the date on the obverse. The reverse features flowers and the denomination, 2 cents is understood. It is about the size of a US nickel, has a mintage of 50 million, and was struck at the Royal Mint (Llantrisant.) None of the coins mentioned have much monetary value but each of them is a reminder of a past time just as our current coins will be reminders of the past. Happy Collecting.

What's new at

## Nashua Coin and Jewelry.....

Gary Galbo

Just back from the New Hampshire Coin and Currency Expo; where we had a very good show and were happy to see so many club members in attendance. I was so busy I didn't get an opportunity to do much buying but on the last day of the show, I stumbled over a dealer case with a half dozen or so Hobo nickels. My wife Laurie has very limited interest in coins from a collector's viewpoint, but has always been intrigued by Hobo Nickels.



For those of you uninitiated, the hobo nickel was popularized during the depression when homeless people or "Hobo's" would carve the Indian face on the nickel and create many different faces and designs by hand. Often times they would trade their art works for a meal or other necessities in their travels. These nickels have become highly collectible and some well known Hobo artist creations can garner huge prices in auction. A single original hobo nickel realized a record price of \$24,200 Jan. 12 during the Original Hobo Nickel Society's 21st annual auction at the FUN show in Florida.

The record lot, once part of the Bill Fivaz Collection, is believed to have been carved in the late 1930s by hobo George Washington "Bo" Hughes. "Bo" was one of the most prolific and talented carvers of nickels and his works are avidly sought after. The record price was for the famous two-sided "dicer" hobo nickel. More than 50 classic, nicknamed and modern carvers were represented in the sale.

The altering of

coins dates back to the 18th century and earlier. Beginning in the 1850's, the most common alteration was the "potty coin", engraved on US seated liberty coins from half cents to dollars. Also popularized during this period were "Love Token" primarily on silver coins which were usually engraved with initials although these were usually made by smoothing one surface of the coin and using engravers tools to produce more stylized artistic pieces for jewelry pendants and bracelets.

With the advent of the Buffalo nickel in 1913, the large thick profile of the Indian gave artists a larger template to work on and quickly became popular.

Another attribution for the medium is that the name "Hobo

Nickel" came from the city of Hoboken New Jersey just after World War I when it became a popular practice for off duty soldiers to carve nickels with military likenesses in tribute to the veterans returning from the war. Regardless of the source these pieces of American folk art are highly sought after today.

I was able to purchase a couple of these for Laurie in Manchester. I believe the military one is from the 1903's where the "Sleepy Head" coin is probably sometime later. Laurie loves them, so that's all that is important.

Our next auction is scheduled for March 23rd... we hope to see more club members in attendance!



## Is it time to buy those key coins?

By Brian Maxfield

The lackluster economy over the past three or four years may be providing you with the opportunity to purchase those key date coins you need in your sets. Many key and semi-key dates are much less than they were three or four years ago. These depressed prices are certainly not going to last forever and it may be that some of these prices have pretty much bottomed out.

The 1877 Indian Head cent is the key in the Indian series, with the 1909-S in second place. The 1877 greysheet bid prices from May of 2009 were \$850. in Good, \$1,350. in Fine and \$2,100. in Extra Fine. Jump to the December 2012 greysheets where the 1877 bids for \$575. in Good (32% decrease), \$1,000. in Fine (26% decrease) and 2,050. in XF (5% decrease). Although the XF coin has maintained most of its value the Good and Fine coins look appealing at these prices. The 1909-S May of 2009 prices were \$480 in Good, \$600. in Fine and \$760. in XF. The December 2012 prices are \$425. in Good (11% decrease), \$445. in Fine (25% decrease) and \$600. in XF (21% decrease). You can get an XF coin now for what you would have paid for a Fine coin almost four years ago.

The 1909-SVDB Lincoln Cent is usually on everyone's want list and one of the last holes to get filled. Although the Good and MS-60 greysheet bid prices in Good (\$625.) and MS-60 (\$1,550.) have not changed from the May 2009 to the December 2012 sheets, the other bid prices are interesting. The 1909-SVDB in the 5/09 greysheet bid for \$1,050. in Fine, \$1,275 in XF and \$1,400. in AU. The 12/12 greysheet prices are \$670. in Fine (36% decrease), \$825. in XF (35% decrease) and \$1,175. in AU (16% decrease). The 1937-D 3 legged Buffalo nickel is one of the most sought after error coins and a key of

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

13 FEB – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

\*14 Feb – President Dollar Proof Set

17 FEB - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

\*19 Feb – William McKinley Dollar

24 Feb – Westford

\*28 Feb – Girl Scouts Commemorative Dollar

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the Buffalo series. The greysheet bid price in Good has been stable between 5/09 and 12/12 at \$435. Not the case with some of the other grades. The 5/09 greysheet prices were \$750. in Fine and \$1,000. in XF. The 12/12 greysheet prices are \$575. in Fine (23% decrease) and \$800 in XF (20% decrease). The 1916-D Mercury dime is the key in the Mercury series. Fine greysheet bid from 5/09 to 12/12 has stayed stable at \$2,050. During that time the price in Good has dropped from \$825. to \$685 (17% decrease). Higher grade coins have shown steady increase.

The Washington quarter key date 1932-D & S coins have dropped somewhat. The 32-D has dropped from \$155 to \$115 in Fine condition (26% decrease) and the 32-S in similar grade has dropped from \$160 to \$135 (15% decrease). Even many semi-key coins have seen some drop in prices. The 1938-D Walking Liberty Half has dropped from \$70 in Good to \$50 (30% decrease) and from \$155 in XF to \$135. (13% decrease)

Bottom line is that it is hard to imagine some of these prices dropping much further. Keep in mind that greysheet prices are generally close to what dealers would pay. It would be expected that you would pay a premium over the greysheet price, especially for key date coins. Although it is possible that prices could drop further, it also may be that it is the perfect time to fill that empty spot in your folder with that key coin you have always wanted!

# Coin Quiz

By Jeffrey C. Cranston

Listed below are 12 types of U.S. coins. They are listed chronologically, based on the year of their debut. Your task is to name the president when each of the coins was released into circulation. Note: Any coin that debuted in a year that had two presidents was not used in this quiz.

The presidents are listed below, also in chronological order, for your convenience.



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## The presidents:

18th century: 1. George Washington, 2. John Adams.

19th century: 3. Thomas Jefferson, 4. James Madison, 5. James Monroe, 6. John Quincy Adams, 7. Andrew Jackson, 8. Martin Van Buren, 9. William Henry Harrison, 10. John Tyler, 11. James K. Polk, 12. Zachary Taylor, 13. Millard Fillmore, 14. Franklin Pierce, 15. James Buchanan, 16. Abraham Lincoln,

17. Andrew Johnson, 18. Ulysses S. Grant, 19. Rutherford B. Hayes, 20. James Garfield, 21. Chester A. Arthur, 22. Grover Cleveland, 23. Benjamin Harrison, 24. Grover Cleveland, 25. William McKinley.

20th century: 26. Theodore Roosevelt, 27. William Howard Taft, 28. Woodrow Wilson, 29. Warren G. Harding, 30. Calvin Coolidge, 31. Herbert Hoover, 32. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 33. Harry S. Truman, 34. Dwight D. Eisenhower, 35. John F. Kennedy, 36. Lyndon B. Johnson, 37. Richard M. Nixon, 38. Gerald R. Ford, 39. Jimmy Carter, 40. Ronald Reagan, 41. George H. W. Bush, 42. William J. Clinton.

21st Century: 43. George W. Bush, 44. Barack Obama.

Answers on page 54

**2014 OFFICERS**

President - Brian Maxfield  
VP - Robert Gabriel  
VP - Bill Roberts  
VP - Charlie Dube  
Secretary - Todd Salmon  
Treasurer - Todd Salmon  
Director - Robert Fritsch  
Librarian - Robert Drew  
Editor - Randy Bullis  
Webmaster - Steve Pearsall

This newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright (C) 2013 by the Nashua Coin Club unless otherwise noted. Questions, comments and articles may be sent to randenator@aol.com or email or PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003 via USPS. Deadline is two weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

Phone queries may be made to 603-533-8662, or to email info@nashuacoinclub.org. The club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.

Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.

## **NEXT MEETING**

*13 February at the Nashua  
Public Library, Nashua, NH*

## **FEBRUARY'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

**Year Of First Issue Coins**



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

February 2013  
Volume 17 Number 2  
Whole Number 204

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
13 February 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:07 PM by Vice President Bob Gabriel with the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifteen members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved. ANA governor elections were discussed. In keeping with club tradition we will again endorse club member Scott Rottinghaus. Correspondence included an email informing us that our March meeting will be moved to the Art/Music/Media wing of the library. Also received was correspondence regarding the White Mountain ATB quarter release event. The ceremony is being held February 21 in Plymouth, NH. Several club members will be attending. In old business the NH Coin & Currency Expo held in Manchester February 1 & 2 was opened for discussion. Appreciation was given to the club members who helped cover the club table for the event. Two of our members entered competitive exhibits. Brian won third place and Bob F. won first place. The answers to the newsletter quiz were reviewed.

The attendance raffle of \$3.75 was won by Bob F.

Coin of the month was first year of issue coins. The COTM raffle was won by Todd and included several 1979 Susan B Anthony dollars, a 2002 Euro, a 1989 Brazilian 1 and 5 centavos, a 1988 Ecuador 1 cedo, a 2010 shield cent, 2005 buffalo and ocean in view nickels, and a 1950 German 10 pfennig. For COTM Bob F put together a book of coins obtained in an auction lot from Gary's auction that included a wide variety of first year and one year foreign coins. Steve showed an NGC MS63 1892-P and an NGC AU58 1892-O Barber dime. He also had the 1913 type I and type II buffalo nickels. Fred showed a 1977 set from the Solomon Islands. Cliff shared his 2010 America the Beautiful quarter set as well as the 2008 United Kingdom uncirculated set. Todd sent around his British Virgin Island 1973 uncirculated set. Brian

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

- \*7 Mar - President Dollar Uncirculated Set
- 10 Mar - Auburn
- 13 MAR - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM
- 17 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
- 17 Mar - Willimantic, CT
- \*21 Mar - Five-Star Generals Commemorative Coins
- 23 Mar - Small Cents II Auction
  
- \*1 Apr - Perry's Victory Memorial (OH) Quarter
- 10 APR - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM
- 14 Apr - Auburn
- 21 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

followed with some great US pieces. He showed an 1878-S NGC MS63 Morgan dollar, a 1921 Peace dollar, an 1892 Barber quarter, an 1853 arrows and rays quarter, and an 1883 no cents nickel that had a fading gold finish on it.

Show and Tell followed with Fred sending around the room a medal of Pope Benedict. Steve had a good looking \$5 1907 woodchopper note. Cliff had 3 of the 2012 Canadian \$20 face value series including the reindeer, the Queen of England, and maple leaves. Bob F showed an unusual looking 2013 year of the snake coin shaped like a fan from the Cook Islands. Brian had an 1896 \$2 educational note graded PNG VF 30 and a PCGS obsolete from the Indian Head Bank of Nashua graded VF 30 PPQ.

The meeting was closed at 8:55.PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 13. The coin of the month will be low mintage coins (less than 1 million).

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## Vatican Coinage and The Pope's Resignation

F.A. Liberatore

Vatican coinage and that of San Marino were specialty collecting areas for roughly the last 70 years. By treaty both independent city states could strike a limited amount of coinage identical to Italian coinage except for the designs. The coins were fully acceptable legal tender in Italy just as Italian coins were acceptable in the city states. Most Vatican and San Marino coins were of low mintage but to most collectors this didn't matter. Once the Eurozone coinage was created in 1999, and gradually was phased in, Vatican, San Marino, and Monaco (a city state that issues up to 2 % the issue number of the coins of France) suddenly fit in with a European wide common coinage for collectors. Of the three, the Vatican issues the smallest amount of coinage. In a typical year 80,000 mint sets and 15,000 proof sets will pretty much be it. The coins most in demand are the circulation issues from 1 Eurocent to 2 Euros. Higher value precious metal coins are issued such as 5, 10, 20 , and 50 Euros, in silver for the 5 and 10 Euros, and in gold for the 20 and 50 Euros. Mintages range from 10,000 for the silver coins to a few thousand for the gold. In many cases the circulation issues are MORE valuable than the NCLT precious metal issues. In fact, virtually ALL Vatican Euro coinage is NCLT since it is sold to collectors in mint and proof sets. Once the Euro issues began, only established customers could order from the Vatican (and San Marino) and every issue is a sell out since Europe wide demand immediately makes the coins worth several times the mint issue price. When John Paul II died in 2005, coins were issued for him. While the cardinals worked on picking his successor, a Sede Vacante (the seat is empty) set was issued. Finally, the new pope Benedict XVI had a full Euro set issued in his name beginning in 2006. There are lots of questions. Will coins be issued in Benedict's name for 2013? He will be in office only 2 months. Benedict's coins did not appear until 2006. Will there be a Sede Vacante issue? After their issue, the European Union made it known that special issues of this type were NOT covered in the European Union treaty. So, perhaps not. And finally, will the new pope have coins issued this year once he is crowned pope? This is the most likely issue. As an active collector of Vatican coins I cannot wait to find out. Happy Collecting.

## Low Mintage Coins at Attractive Prices from the US Mint!!!!!!

F.A. Liberatore

This might seem impossible but it is quietly happening. Perhaps it is due to collector fatigue after the decade and a half outburst of mint issues starting with the state quarters, then the Jefferson nickel 2004-2006 varieties, followed by the national park quarters and the presidential dollars. Coupled with this has been the vast increase in the prices of precious metals, especially silver (the poor man's gold) and the increased prices charged by the mint for its products. The mintage on the 2011 silver proof set is 574 thousand. The 2011 28 coin uncirculated set has a mintage of only 533 thousand. The 2012 clad proof set is at 794 thousand mintage and the silver set is at 395 thousand. All of these numbers are FINAL mintages. While many of the coins in the sets can be purchased as rolls or by the bag, some are not that available. Nickels and dimes are in the sets and otherwise not available as other mint products. A set to watch: the 28 coin uncirculated set of 2012 which is still for sale with a mintage of just 392 thousand sets. I wouldn't be surprised if the mint shuts that one down at around 500,000 sets. Will the 2013 14 coin silver proof sets and the 28 coin uncirculated sets be of even lower mintages than the 2012 sets? It wouldn't surprise me. Happy Collecting.

## Trip Report – ATB Quarter Launch

Bob Gabriel

Thursday February 21, 2013 a few of us traveled north to Plymouth State University (PSU) which hosted the sight of the America the Beautiful (ATB) White Mountain National Forest Quarter Launch and Coin Exchange. This 2013 NH launch was the sixteenth release in the US Mints ATB Program that will run through 2021. It features a design by Phebe Hemphill and depicts Mount Chocorua, the eastern most peak of the Sandwich Range, framed by birch trees. The Honorable Bob Fritsch, who was a member of the original selection committee, went up the day prior to attend an evening round table. Thursday morning Cliff Lo Verme, Jack Hoadley, Charlie Dube and I met Brian Maxfield and joined Bob F for the 10:30 am ceremony at PSU's Hanaway Theatre. The venue a 665 seat proscenium theatre was full by start time but I would say that 90% of those in attendance were local area students who were bused in for the event. Bob F with his vast connections reserved us front row seats so we surely felt like dignitaries. Also of note in the front row were representatives of both Senators Shaheen and Ayotte. Also there in the front row and appropriately pointed out was NH resident numismatic authority Q. David Bowers.

Just prior to the ceremony there was plenty of picture taking and quite a few of our club elongated coins (EC's) were distributed. The Plymouth Elementary School Band provided the pre-event music, and the Campton Elementary School handed the Pledge of Allegiance. The Nation Anthem was sung by a PSU student whose name I forgot to write down but should have, cause as Charlie said it was one of the finest renditions any of us had ever heard. Speakers in order of appearance were Master of Ceremonies Bill Dauer White Mountain National Forest Technical Team Leader, Congresswoman Ann Kuster, Representative of Senator Shaheen, Representative of Senator Ayotte, and featured speakers' Tom Wagner White Mountain National Forest Supervisor, Dick Peterson Director of the United States Mint, and Maggie Hassan Governor of New Hampshire. Director Peterson, who lived in NH for a couple years after leaving the service, conveyed memorable sentiments from his time spent living and skiing through NH.

Each of the students in attendance was given a round plastic coin holder compliment of the US Mint. Immediately after the ceremony the students were given a new quarter free of charge. As well all were allowed to take part in the Coin Exchange where you could exchange cash for



rolls of the NH quarter for face value. One roll minimum ten roll maximum. Our Bob F was able to amass well more than the 10 roll limit which he wasted little time putting some into circulation. After we loaded up on rolls we caravanned up the highway several exits to the Campton NH Post Office which was providing first day cancellations of about anything you could put in front of them.

The group of us were talking it up pretty good in the post office lobby with other coin enthusiasts.

Again we passed out some club EC's and wooden nickels. From there we traveled back down the highway to Plymouth where we had lunch at the Main Street Diner, a 1946

Worcester Streamliner train car, which was voted a NH #1 Diner by Yankee

Magazine. The diner car had an additional room out back which we made our home for the hour or so we were there. Again Bob F helped circulate more coins to a family dining nearby and included a few extra quarters as part of our server Courtney's tip.

Charlie was pretty pleased with his rarely indulged in BLT and the rest of us were more then satisfied with our lunch choices.

Leaving the diner a few of us stopped at the Plymouth Post Office diagonally across the street but only I took advantage of their commemorative postal cancellation stamp. I had them cancel my 5-3/4" ATB-NH quarter wooden nickel. Before we left town we had a bit of a time finding the newly created Museum of the White Mountains located on the campus. When we walked up to the front door we were disappointed that the sign reflected it would open 2 days later on the 23rd. Well next time we'll at least know where it is.

In summary, I would say a great time was had by all of us and having the club so well represented was impressive to say the least. The next coin launch within driving distance will have to be a club roundtrip for sure. If you haven't attended a coin launch we look forward to having you along for what I can only say will be a very memorable occasion that will provide fond memories for years to come.

## WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS

You are cordially invited



### White Mountain National Forest Quarter Launch and Coin Exchange

Commemorating the release of the 2013 White Mountain National Forest quarter, the sixteenth coin to be released in the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program

Hanaway Theatre  
Plymouth State University

Plymouth, New Hampshire  
February 21, 2013 • 10:30 a.m.

Coin exchange begins immediately following the quarter launch event  
*one-roll (\$10) minimum • 10-roll (\$100) maximum*

## **Bob Fritsch**

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**From:** Randy Bullis <randenator@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 6:39  
**Subject:** White Mountain Quarter

Just in case you were wondering.....

### **Photo behind coins:**

**44°09.292'N 071°19.075'W**

**Stairs Mountain**

**Looking East/South East towards Iron Mtn and Kearsarge North in the background.**

**44°08.224'N 071°14.358'W**

**Iron Mountain**

**44°06.391'N 071°05.639'W**

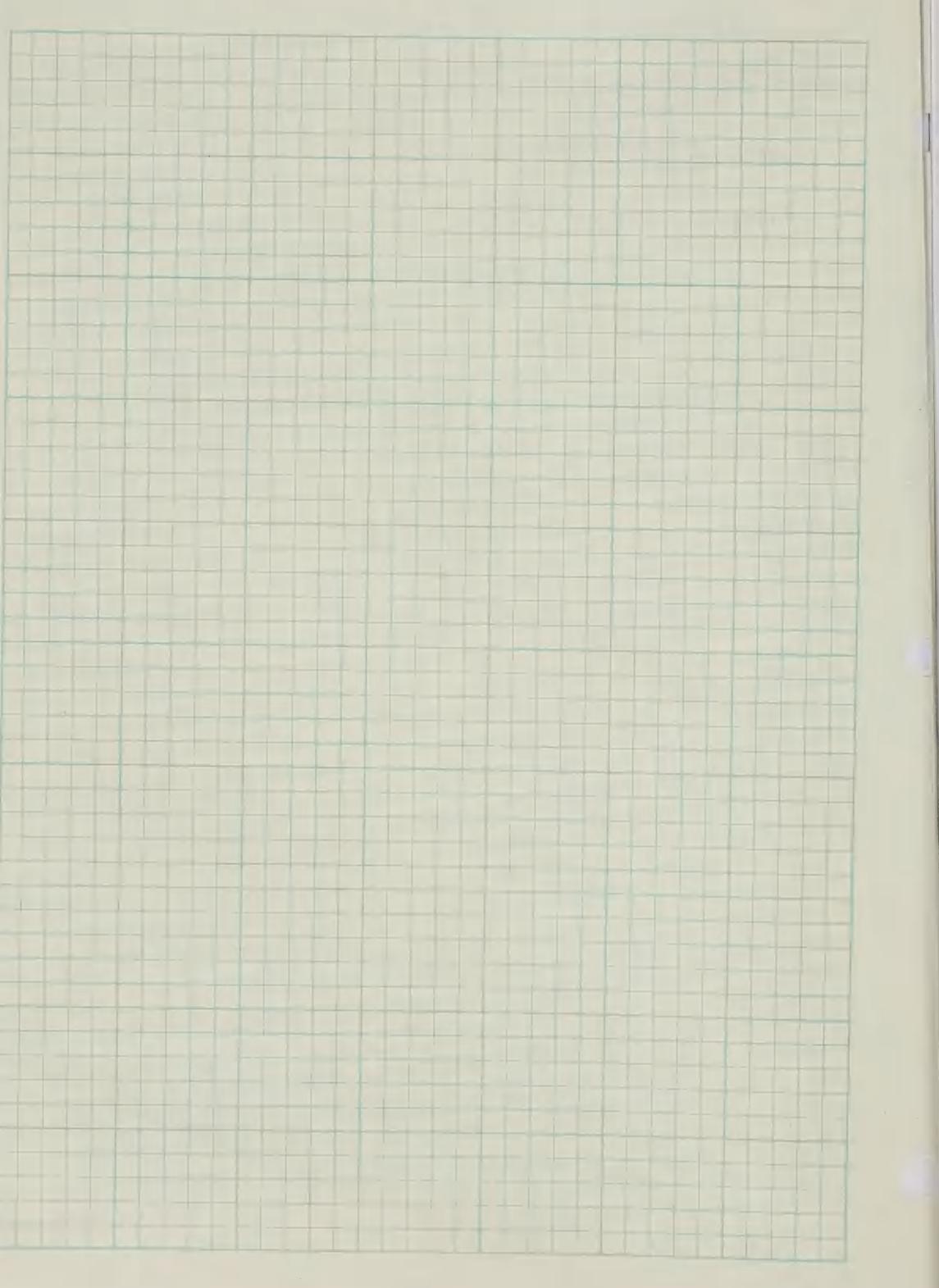
**Kearsarge North**

### **Coin Image:**

**Mt Chocorua**

**44°53.551'N 071°13.690'W**

**Looking North**



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Bob G

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*You are cordially invited*



### White Mountain National Forest Quarter Launch and Coin Exchange

Commemorating the release of the 2013 White Mountain National Forest quarter, the sixteenth coin to be released in the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program

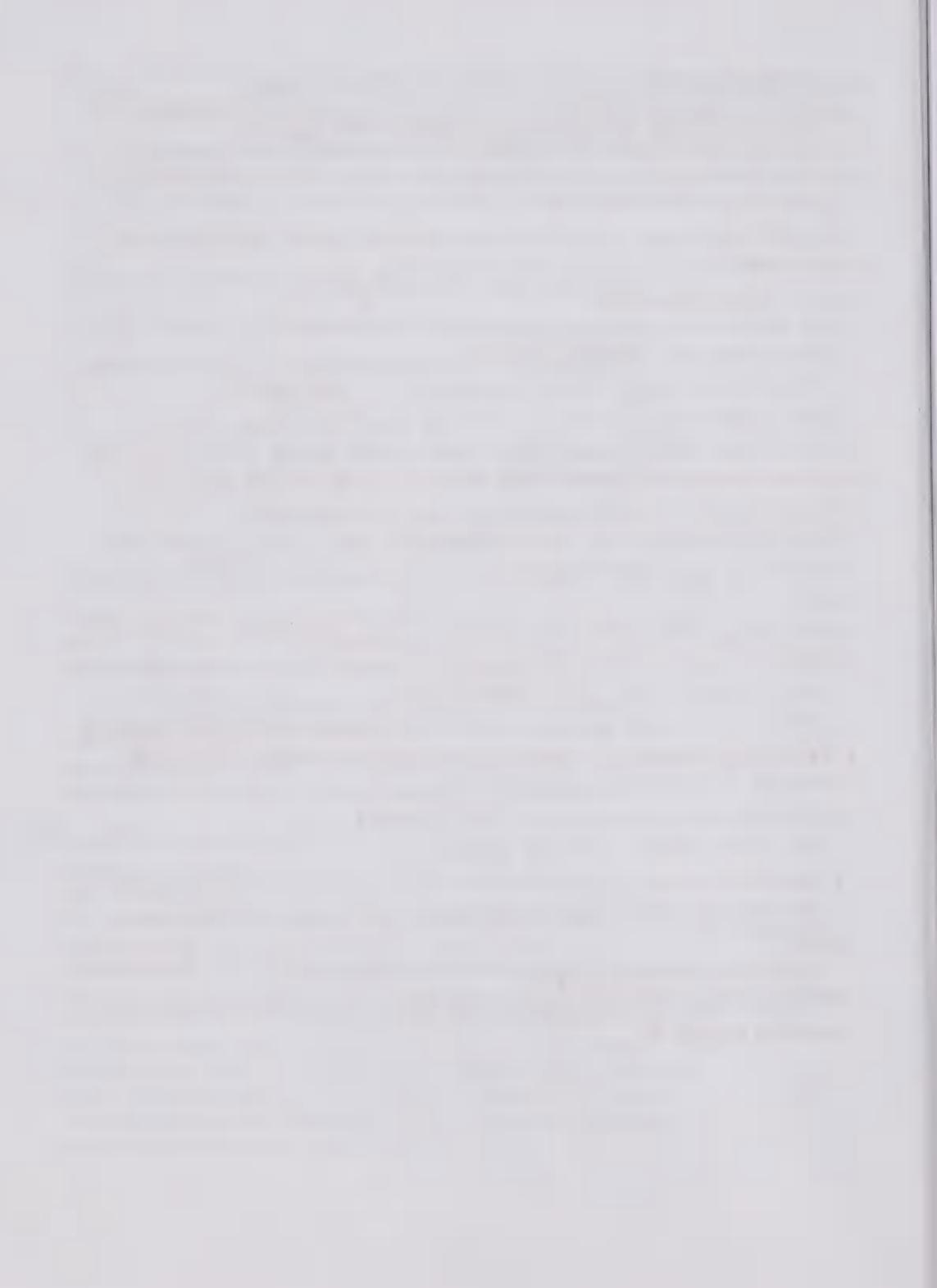
Hanaway Theatre  
Plymouth State University

Plymouth, New Hampshire  
February 21, 2013 • 10:30 a.m.

Coin exchange begins immediately following the quarter launch event  
*one-roll (\$10) minimum • 10-roll (\$100) maximum*

## *Black Diamond Shines Again – ANA Club Trivia Contest*

1. The first U.S. 5-cent coin was not referred to as a nickel. What was its name? **The Half Dime (Half Disme) was worth five cents but it was denominated Half Dime. Trick Question?**
2. Future ANA president Waldo C. Moore endorsed designer James Earle Fraser's concept for the Buffalo nickel while serving on what now-defunct government agency? **US Assay Commission (1912)**
3. Which American Indian was not mentioned by artist James Earle Fraser as a model for the Buffalo nickel's obverse?  
*a. Big Tree b. John Big Tree c. Iron Tail d. Two Moons* **Definitely c and d. n was added to the story many years later.**
4. Fraser was an assistant of an American sculptor with a significant numismatic heritage. Who was that sculptor? **Augustus Saint-Gaudens**
5. What still-active private company produced the majority of reductions and hubs from Fraser's models in the die-making process? **Medallic Art Company**
6. To gain support for his design, Fraser used a metal design reproduction process popular in printing, art and counterfeiting at the time. What is the name of this process? **Electrotyping**
7. Where is Fraser's initial "F" located on the Buffalo nickel? **Below the date**
8. The design for the Buffalo nickel was approved in 1912, but delayed for several months due to objections raised by the Hobbs Manufacturing Co. What was the gist of Hobbs' concern? **Hobbs made anti-slug mechanisms for vending machines and insisted the new coin would mess up the works.**
9. There were two varieties of Buffalo nickel released in 1913. What is the difference? **Type I had a mound under the bison, Type II had a straight exurge to protect the denomination.**
10. The Buffalo nickel replaced the Liberty Head nickel in 1913, but a few Liberty Head nickels were minted with the date 1913. How many of these rare nickels are confirmed to exist? **Five**
11. At the time the Buffalo nickel was first minted in 1913, approximately how many bison lived in North America?  
*a. About 250,000 b. About 50,000 c. About 1,000* **Tricky question. 1910 estimate was 2,108 and by 1919 it was 12,521. [www.fws.gov/bisonrange/timeline.htm]**
12. Black Diamond was the bison that served as model for the nickel's reverse. In what year did he die, and what was the cause of death? **He was slaughtered in 1915**
13. The first distribution of Buffalo nickels was made during a groundbreaking ceremony for a national monument that was never built. What was that monument? **The National American Indian Memorial at Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, NY. The area is now a footing for the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.**
14. During the "The Renaissance of American Coinage," (1905-1921), several coin designs were created that are today considered among the most artistic and beautiful coins in U.S. history. Which President is credited with spearheading this renaissance? **Theodore Roosevelt**
15. What is the first issue of U.S. federal paper money to have a Native American as its central obverse feature? **5¢ 1901 \$10 Legal Tender Note** *1899 \$5 SC.*
16. What is the first issue of U.S. federal paper money to have a bison as its central obverse feature?
17. Which motto, now required by law, does not appear on the Buffalo nickel? **In God We Trust**
18. The Buffalo nickel is most commonly-used coin for what popular altered coin art form? **Hobo Nickels**
19. A famous variety of Buffalo nickels, produced in 1937, is missing something. What? **Its fourth leg (3-legged variety from too much die polishing).**
20. The Buffalo nickel stopped being produced in 1938. What U.S. coin was the next to feature a bison?  
*[Guess] 2001 Buffalo Dollar*



## *Black Diamond Shines Again – ANA Club Trivia Contest*

1. *The first U.S. 5-cent coin was not referred to as a nickel. What was its name?*
2. *Future ANA president Waldo C. Moore endorsed designer James Earle Fraser's concept for the Buffalo nickel while serving on what now-defunct government agency?*
3. *Which American Indian was not mentioned by artist James Earle Fraser as a model for the Buffalo nickel's obverse?*  
a. Big Tree   b. John Big Tree   c. Iron Tail   d. Two Moons
4. *Fraser was an assistant of an American sculptor with a significant numismatic heritage. Who was that sculptor?*
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a. About 250,000   b. About 50,000   c. About 10,000   d. About 1,000
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*2013 OFFICERS*  
President - Brian Maxfield  
VP - Robert Gabriel  
VP - Bill Roberts  
VP - Charlie Dube  
Secretary - Todd Salmon  
Treasurer - Todd Salmon  
Director - Robert Fritsch  
Librarian - Robert Drew  
Editor - Randy Bullis  
Webmaster - Steve Pearsall

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*Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.*

## ***NEXT MEETING 13 March at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH***

***FEBRUARY'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH***  
***Low Mintage Coins  
(less than 1 million)***



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

March 2013  
Volume 17 Number 3  
Whole Number 205

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
13 March 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:10 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twelve members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved. Correspondence included our ANA National Coin Week package. Brian will distribute the coins to promote the event and the Nashua Coin Club. Also received was an invitation for the club dinner at the CSNS show in IL. In old business the White Mountain ATB quarter release was discussed. Those who attended told of a great event with a lot of children in attendance. A question was raised regarding selling our 50 year club medals on an individual basis. A vote was taken and passed. The new pricing will be \$15 for a set of the copper and brass finishes and \$10 for one. The ANA club quiz was reviewed. Bob F acquired the book *The Renaissance of American Coinage* volume two by Roger Burdette which contained many of the answers. We will review the quiz at the April meeting with the intention of submitting final answers afterwards.

The attendance raffle of \$2.50 was won by Cliff and donated to the club. The COTM drawing was won by Bob G. It consisted of some low mintage pieces including a British Virgin Islands 1973 proof 5 cent piece, a 2002-S silver dime, a 1984 Costa Rican 1 colon, a 1995 El Salvador 10 centavos and an 1895 Canadian 5 cent piece.

Coin of the month was low mintage coins. Todd showed the 1978 Papua New Guinea set

that he obtained at the NH Coin & Currency show in February that was the basis of the subject. It had a low mintage of only 777. He also showed a 1912-S Liberty nickel, and 1883 and 1887 3 cent nickels. Bob F put together a binder of low mintage coins including a 1995 Atlanta Olympics baseball half, a 1950-S Booker T Washington half, a 1960 Mexican 10 pesos, a 1953 Mexican 5 pesos, a Swiss 1945 5 centimes and a 1902 5 mark Saxony coin. Fred had some 1960's proof sets from the Portugal Mint and a rare 1979 Iranian 50 dinar. Cliff sent around the room his 2011 US Army halves in both uncirculated and proof. Steve showed an MS63RB 1931-S cent, an 1848 dime, a 1928 PCGS AU58 Peace dollar, and an 1896 one dollar educational note. Randy had a 2012 Chinese ANA commemorative silver panda and a Bahamas souvenir set. Brian had a very unusual 1918 Illinois centennial half in a ribbon holder.

Show and Tell followed with Bob F showing a Portuguese medal from 1982 commemorating the centennial of paper tape with a five row paper tape engraving. Todd showed an 1879 Boyd's galvanic battery that was a medical device worn to cure just about everything. Although not numismatic they have a Rulau number (NY-NY 33) and are slabbed and graded by NGC.

The meeting was closed at 8:55.PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 10. The coin of the month will be wooden nickels (and others) of the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## Bullion, Bullion and more Bullion!

R.S. "Bart" Bartanowicz  
NCC Florida Correspondent

I've been talking to the various dealers around southwest Florida asking them "How are things going, what's in demand etc? Well the answer has been bullion. The buying and selling of silver and gold seems to be the bulk of their activity. Folks are still buying and selling coins but they are a smaller part of the business. The dedicated coin collectors are still there but even some of them have gone over to what I call "The dark side" that is, they are dabbling in bullion.

Some folks have declared themselves to be geniuses because they purchased gold and silver back when it was low--that would be the \$400 an ounce for gold and a dollar and change for an ounce of silver. I can only say congratulations! In the meantime what's a dedicated collector to do? One area might be modern silver commemoratives. These coins have low mintages (Congress has limited them to no more than 500,000 per coin to be produced. They are not especially market leaders with a good many being returned to the melting pot because of poor sales. There are some terrific designs and some "not so terrific" designs. Its something worth looking at especially since Congress has been talking about discontinuing the program. We shall see....

Greek, Semitic , Asiatic Coins and How to Read Them: A Revised and Augmented Edition, 2013,  
by Richard J. Plant  
Frederick A. Liberatore

The original edition of this numismatically most useful book was published in 1979. Unfortunately, as described in a Celator article (published in 2010) about Plant and his numismatic publications, only a measly 100 copies were printed. Today, it is a very rare book and seldom available. Plant mentions in the foreword of the revised and augmented edition that he had prepared a revised second edition and sent it to a publisher in New York City. Unfortunately, the manuscript was destroyed in the 9/11/2001 attack. There the matter ended until this reviewer contacted Plant by email in 2010 and asked about a 2 nd edition. Plant, after due consideration, decided to again work on a 2 nd edition. He did this in collaboration with a fellow nummatist, Allan N. Wallace, who served as both editor and publisher. It took over 2 years but finally, the book is again available.

Two things are very unusual about this book. First, it features over 1,000 hand drawn illustrations of the coins under discussion. These hand drawn illustrations are better than photographs of the coins themselves. Plant has the eye of a numismatist and the hand of an artist as shown by these illustrations. Secondly, there are study coins illustrated for the reader to translate with answers to the exercises at the end of the book. The book is divided into 4 main sections. The first section covers Greek based alphabets and includes a chapter on Armenian and Georgian coins. An extra chapter, 6 A , has been added on Russian coins including the Russian alphabet and a list of the Czars as well as coin illustrations. Semitic alphabets are discussed in section two which includes among others Old Hebrew, Phoenician, Sassanian, Arabic, Kufic Arabic, Mongolian, Manchu, and a considerably revised chapter on Ethiopian, both ancient (coins unlikely to be seen very often) and modern Ethiopian coins (these can be found in junk boxes for trivial sums.) Section three provides a window on the Indian alphabets from ancient to modern (12 chapters-there are a lot of them) and includes further chapters on Nepal, Tibet, Assam, Burma and Thailand. Section four covers Chinese script as well as the cash coins of China, Japan, Korea, and Annam.

What this book does, and does well, is to provide coin collectors and numismatists the basic information to identify and read the inscriptions on unusual and obscure coinages. The bulk of the information in this book would be very difficult to find elsewhere which makes it a valuable addition to any numismatic library. What this book does not do is provide information on the rarity or value of the coins identified and discussed. Those you will have to find elsewhere. Readers will notice several different type faces throughout the text. Wherever the type face varies from the commonest type face, you are reading added or revised information. There is a lot of new information in this revised edition.

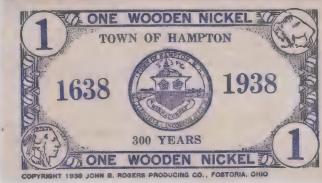
The book can be ordered from Maximus Publications, Grandad Press, C/O Allan N. Wallace; 46 The Hollows, Bessacarr; Doncaster DN4 7PP, South Yorkshire, England at a cost of 25 pounds plus 15 pounds for FedEx (Interparcel) shipping. (My copies arrived only 4 days after dispatch!) Bank checks need to be denominated in English pounds. The author, Richard J. Plant, may be contacted at or called at 01302323089 for information on payment options which is advisable. The press run on this book is likely to be small so if you want a copy don't dilly dally. You will be pleased with your author's autographed, hand numbered volume. I sure am pleased with my copy.

## Wooden Nickels

Bob Gabriel

When the Citizen's Bank in Tenino, Washington failed, a shortage of money was created. The year was 1931

and merchants were unable to obtain change without having to travel 30 miles over mountainous roads that in 1931 were just not suited for the trip. Remember the roads were built for horse and buggies, so the average round trip would have taken about 4 hours. That amount of time was just not practical for the merchants to be away from their establishments. An emergency meeting of the local Chamber of Commerce was called and as a result, one of the area newspapers began printing up the first known issues of wooden money in the United States. Those pieces were flat rectangular similar in size to banknotes.



Several other places mostly in the Pacific Northwest issued wooden money after that. In early 1933 Blain, Washington issued round wooden coins after their bank failed and these became the first round pieces in the United States. Most other towns followed suit issuing either flat or round pieces – with the rounds becoming equally prevalent due to practicality. The Chicago World's Fair, known as The Century of Progress which ran from 1933 to 1934 was the first place to use wooden money pieces as souvenirs. All the pieces were round with sizes ranging from silver dollar to a larger diameter of 76mm. In the latter part of 1934 the use of wooden coins started to proliferate and it was becoming common to see them used for advertising, especially for civic celebrations and for souvenirs of all types of celebrations. It was most commonplace to use wooden tokens for town centennials and sesquicentennials. By the mid 1930's wooden pieces were in steady production, and in 1938 JR Rogers Company of Fostoria, Ohio obtained a copyright on their flat design, but there was already competition from firms who were producing their own version of wooden pieces. Today flat woods produced by JR Rogers are the most readily found at coins shows, yard sales, flea markets, or on-line auctions.

The Rogers Company is unique in that it may have been one of the greatest marketing schemes of the 20th Century. They often produced large quantities of the wooden pieces and then sold them to area merchants for face value and in turn the merchants gave the wooden pieces, in various denominations, to customers as change. Having expiration dates on them, they often went unused, so in effect people had paid to take home an advertisement of the event or establishment – only to be left lying around the house.

All or most wood pieces had an expiration date on them and generally had a specific final redemption date. It's believed that the old saying "don't take any Wooden Nickels" came about from the non-value of holding a handful of wooden nickels after the expiration date. Several popular designs trace back to the Buffalo nickel which were struck from 1913 to 1938 and feature a Bison on one side.



Today flat wood is rarely produced. Round pieces, known as wooden nickels, tuits, tokens or drink chips are made just about every day for some special event like holiday parties, parades, political events, banks, clubs, restaurants, bars, stores, fairs, grand openings etc. These pieces are rarely thrown away and just about all of them surface at some point in time. They are mostly low cost ink printed but there are higher quality pieces being produced by the likes of firms similar to Alpine Engraving, Jackson NH. Collecting and trading wooden nickels is fun and it's an affordable hobby. So, have fun, happy collecting, and remember "don't take any Wooden Nickels"!

## *Sede Vacante-An Update*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*News has been released from the Vatican on the coin issues for Sede Vacante. There will NOT be a full euro set since this greatly upset the European Union during the last Sede Vacante. Instead 125,000 2 euro coins will be issued with the emblem of a Cardinal Camariengo and the pavilion of the Apostolic Camera. There will also be another 2 euro coin featuring the now pope emeritus Benedict XVI due out in April. These could but won't circulate as all are likely to be snapped up by collectors who can buy them by subscription only. Likely cost, about \$20 each. Never to circulate will be the 10,000 5 euro silver coins (slightly smaller and thicker than a US half dollar, 14 grams of 0.925 silver) and the 5,000 10 euro gold coins of 13.85 mm diameter weighting 3 grams (0.900 fine?) "Sede Vacante 2013" will appear on these coins, plus the obverse design as reported for the 2 euro Sede Vacante. Likely cost for the 5 euro coin about \$50. The 10 euro in gold coin will be pricey. My estimate will be \$280 or so. All of these coins are likely to be slow in appearing. It is certain that established customers of the Vatican Numismatic Office will buy them all. Finally, while not discussed yet, I expect a standard 1 euro cent to 2 euro coin set for 2013 of Francis to appear also. This will be the standard "circulating" Vatican City euro set. (Vatican City euros are rarely released to circulation but instead are all sold to collectors by subscription.) Happy Collecting.*

### *SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013*

*Bob Fritsch*

*\* = Mint Release*

- 10 APR – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*
- 14 Apr – Auburn*
- 21 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*
- 16 Apr – Centennial Auction Paris Sale Part 1, Holiday Inn*
- 18-21 Apr – CICF, Rosemont, IL*
- 24-27 Apr – CSNS Schaumberg, IL (Chicago suburb)*
- 28 Apr – Westford*
  
- 8 MAY – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*
- 9-11 May – ANA NMS New Orleans*
- 13 May – Centennial Auction, Holiday Inn*
- 18 May – Small Cents II Auction*
- 19 MAY - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*
- 26 May – Westford*

NASHUA COIN CLUB  
MAKES PRESENCE  
KNOWN AT WHITE  
MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL FOREST  
QUARTER  
UNVEILING  
CEREMONY.



*2013 OFFICERS*

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***NEXT MEETING***  
***10 April at the Nashua Public  
Library, Nashua, NH***

***MARCH'S COIN OF THE MONTH***  
***Wooden Nickels***



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

April 2013  
Volume 17 Number 4  
Whole Number 206

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting

10 April 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:03 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirteen members and two guests were present.

Our guests were Ron and Matthew. Matthew is going for his Boy Scout badge in numismatics. The minutes of the previous meeting were amended and the Treasurer's report was approved. Correspondence included the usual bank statement and flyers. In old business the ANA National Coin Week club challenge was reviewed for final submission. Brian will complete and send it in. Also reviewed was an old item of life membership in our club. It was determined that the requirement was 25 consecutive years of membership. Finally in old business was a follow up on the library book program with Central States. Suggested was the 100 Greatest series of books and cutting it down to 6 libraries. In new business Brian will be setting up an informational table at the Nashua Library on April 27 for ANA Coin Week.

Bob F will have 2014 Red Books at the next meeting. Fred discussed his book review on Richard J. Plant's Greek Semitic Asiatic Coins and How to Read Them. He obtained several copies of the book. Brian gave an update on a medal artist he has been collecting. He had a wood boxed set of Mico Kaufman medals honoring Arnold Palmer's eight master's victories.

The attendance raffle of \$3.25 was won by Bill. The COTM drawing was won by Frank. It consisted of a Nashua firefighter wood, a wooden Euro, a Chomerics wood, a Richard the magician wood, a 50 cents off Shoot King wood, a free interior vacuum wood, a United States of America wood, a 1938-D buffalo nickel, a Seymours Pure Water 46 cents per day wood, a 1987 East Caribbean States 5 cent and a 2012-P nickel.

Coin of the month was wooden nickels and other nickel coins. Bob F started us off with a book of woods obtained in a large lot that covered all 50 states. Bob G had some Meredith officials, some neat flat pieces from JR Rogers company in Ohio, one of the very first round woods that was issued at the Chicago World Fair in 1934, a 1939 Hoquiam Washington and a 1939 Columbia Cavalcade 5 cent wood. Bob G also had a special run of 15 wooden nickels made up to commemorate the night that he gave out to the members and guests present. Chris followed with a wood from the Masonic Coin Club on NY, a 1963 Shelby County Coin Club, and a 1963 Medicine Hat Alberta convention. Brian had an assortment of nickels including an 1883 racketeer Liberty nickel, a 1920 buffalo with a lamination error, an 1885 Liberty nickel, and a 1939 Jefferson with a double die reverse.

Show and Tell followed with Todd showing his newly acquired 1982 Republic of Malta proof set. Bob F had the new book from Pierre Frickey of the BNS: Confederate States of America Paper Money as well as a Krause leaflet on 30 years of Coin of the Year. He also had bank security listings from Turkmenistan. Cliff had the new 2013 proof 5 star general commemoratives as well as the new 2013 Girl Scout commemorative. Brian told of and showed his 3 1978 red cents recently obtained in change. He also had a cent with a v impressed in it.

The meeting was closed at 8:55.PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 8. The coin of the month will be something numismatic related that you don't collect and will donate to the club to have Charlie auction off.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## *Coin Designs That Encourage Collecting*

*F. A. Liberatore*

### **SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013**

*Bob Fritsch*

\* = Mint Release

8 MAY – NCC  
MEETING, MAIN  
LIBRARY, 7PM  
9-11 May – ANA NMS  
New Orleans  
13 May – Centennial  
Auction, Holiday Inn  
18 May – Small Cents II  
Auction  
19 MAY - 3rd SUNDAY,  
HOLIDAY INN  
26 May – Westford

*Some coin designs encourage collecting and some don't. Any coin that has BOTH the date AND mintmark on ONE side encourages collecting. One home grown example is the Lincoln cent, which for every date/mintmark, the full coin identification can be seen at a glance on the obverse. (Exception 1909 VDB variety)*

*Canadian small cents, large cents and nickels are designed the same way with the date on the reverse. The cents and nickels of Bermuda also have the date very prominently on the reverse. I have been gathering them from junk boxes to build a date collection. Buffalo nickels have a reverse mintmark so, the rare coin and the common coin of the same date look the same, unless you turn them over. Jefferson nickels have the same problem. Those struck 1968 and later do have the date and mintmark on the obverse but it is hard to read. The new design of the Jefferson nickel, unveiled in 2006, has the date and mintmark prominently displayed on the obverse. I predict these coins will become a popular series. Our clad dimes, 1965 to the present, provide the date and mintmark on the obverse as do the quarters from 1965-1998. These clad coins are not widely collected. After silver forever, collectors seem to have rejected these base metal coins. The 50 states plus territories series, 1999-2009, finds the mintmark on the obverse and the date on the reverse. Still, these are wildly popular collectibles because of the 56 different reverse designs. The base metal curse has worn off for them.*

*At any rate, I appreciate coins with designs that I can attribute at a glance without turning them over to search for a mintmark. Happy Collecting.*

## Dead Man's Hand – Deadwood SD

Bob Gabriel

Do you know the significance of a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights? In 1976 Deadwood, South Dakota issued wooden nickels celebrating their 100th anniversary which makes reference to the cards held during the shooting of famous folk hero "Wild Bill" Hickok.

James Butler "Wild Bill" the Civil War where he was Hays City and marshal of reputation as the West's He had starred as himself West Show in 1876 in killed by Jack McCall in August 2, 1876, but the never been revealed. seat against the wall facing reason on that fateful day, back to the door, which behind him and shoot him McCall was subsequently for the murder and was



Hickok moved to Kansas after promptly appointed sheriff in Abilene, based on his national finest and fastest gunslinger. in Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild Deadwood. He was shot and Deadwood's Saloon #10 on motives for the murder have Oddly, Hickok always took a the door, but for some he accepted a chair with his allowed McCall to step up in the back of the head. tried (twice) and convicted hanged thereafter.

Hickok was one of the early West produced. He on the Santa Fe Trail, army scout, and spy during the Civil War, professional gambler, and gold prospector. Legend has it that while a stagecoach driver he was attacked by a bear, which he managed to kill using only a knife or pistol depending on which version you read.

most colorful characters the had been a stagecoach driver

Even in death, the Hickok's legend continues to grow. The cards he was holding at the time of his death, a pair of black aces, a pair of black eights, and a queen of hearts – became commonly known as "the dead man's hand". There is controversy surrounding the fifth card, referred to as the "hole or kicker" card. Over the years the card has been shown as a jack of diamonds, five of diamonds, nine of diamond, or as Ripley's Believe It or Not has it displayed as the queen of hearts. Deadwood has it the same way on its various centennial wood issues. Regardless, it's safe to say if you're holding black aces and black eights – you have the "Dead Man's Hand".



## NATIONAL COIN WEEK

### "Buffalo Nickel Centennial: Black Diamond Shines Again"

by Brian Maxfield

2013 is the 100th anniversary of the release of the Buffalo Nickel. The Buffalo Nickel was one of the many releases from the "Renaissance of American Coinage" period from 1907 through 1916. The idea of a new nickel started after the release of the Lincoln Cent. There was some interest in the idea of a Washington nickel, including a series of five cent patterns minted during 1909 and 1910. The Buffalo Nickel became a reality in 1913 and was minted through 1938. The artist who designed the coin was James Earl Fraser. Mr. Fraser used three different American Indian models when designing the obverse of the coin. They were Iron Tail, Big Tree, and Two Moons. The buffalo on the back of the coin is actually not a buffalo at all, but a bison. He used a famous bison at the New York Bronx Zoo named Black Diamond as the model for the reverse of the coin. James Earl Fraser married Laura Gardin in 1913. Also a sculptor, the two of them combined to produce the Oregon Trail Commemorative. Previous to this, his wife had designed the 1921 Alabama Centennial Commemorative and the 1922 Grant Half Dollar and Gold Dollar Commemoratives.

A misnomer is the term "nickel", which seems to imply that the coin would be made mostly of nickel. In fact, the coin is 75% copper and only 25% nickel. This composition has actually been the same since the initial release of the Shield Nickel in 1866, other than a brief period between 1942 and 1945 when the "Wartime" composition of 35% silver, 9% manganese and 56% copper was used.

The 1913 Buffalo's saw two types in the first year. The first was the "mound" type with the words "five cents" on a raised mound. It became obvious that this raised wording would likely wear away quickly, leading to the decision of it being recessed and creating the new "line" type. The other problem that would be realized was the fairly quick disappearance of the date from the raised shoulder of the Indian. Never corrected, this led to a fairly high percentage of Buffalo nickels being dateless, especially the earlier dates. Another problem for Buffalo's is weak strikes. This is especially common for the middle date coins from Denver and San Francisco, with some coins lacking significant detail. Better strikes can be found with a little patience and sometimes not much of a premium. Two key areas to help discern this are noted by Bill Fivaz. On the obverse, look for the groove in the hair immediately above the braid that goes straight up and curves slightly left. On the reverse, look at the raised fur above the bison's left leg.

The key circulated date to the series is the 1913-S Type II. Low mintage, less saving and excessive wear lead to a limited supply. The 1913-D Type II, 1914-D, 1921-S, 1915-S and 1913-S Type I are better dates with the rest of the coins available at \$20 or less in lower grades. In Uncirculated condition, the 1926-S is the key to the series. Other mid-year S-mint and a few D-mint coins are also better including the 1918-S and 1924-S to name a couple. The Buffalo series is also graced with several very popular (and thus expensive) varieties. These include the 1937-D 3 legged Buffalo, the 1918/17-D and the 1916/16. Proof coins would be made in 1913 (both Type I and Type II) through 1916 with a Matte finish and then not again until 1936 with both satin and mirror finish, and 1937 with a mirror finish. Buffalo nickels are likely to maintain and increase in value based on their long term affinity with collectors.

## NATIONAL COIN WEEK

### "Buffalo Nickel Centennial: Black Diamond Shines Again"

by Brian M

2013 is the 100th anniversary of the release of the Buffalo Nickel. The Buffalo Nickel was one of the many releases from the "Renaissance of American Coinage" period from 1907 through 1916. The idea of a new nickel started after the release of the Lincoln Cent. There was some interest in the idea of a Washington nickel, including a series of five cent patterns minted during 1909 and 1910. The Buffalo Nickel became a reality in 1913 and was minted through 1938. The artist who designed the coin was James Earl Fraser. Mr. Fraser used three different American Indian models when designing the obverse of the coin. They were Iron Tail, Big Tree, and Two Moons. The buffalo on the back of the coin is actually not a buffalo at all, but a bison. He used a famous bison at the New York Bronx Zoo named Black Diamond as the model for the reverse of the coin. James Earl Fraser married Laura Gardin in 1913. Also a sculptor, the two of them combined to produce the Oregon Trail Commemorative. Previous to this, his wife had designed the 1921 Alabama Centennial Commemorative and the 1922 Grant Half Dollar and Gold Dollar Commemoratives.

The two Buffalo Nickels shown here are the obverse and reverse sides of the coin. The obverse (left) features a profile of a Native American facing left, with the word "LIBERTY" above and "1935" below. The reverse (right) features a bison standing, with "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" around the top and "FIVE CENTS" at the bottom.

A misnomer is the term "nickel", which seems to imply that the coin would be made mostly of nickel. In fact, the coin is 75% copper and only 25% nickel. This composition has actually been the same since the initial release of the Shield Nickel in 1866, other than a brief period between 1942 and 1945 when the "Wartime" composition of 35% silver, 9% manganese and 56% copper was used.

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## ***NEXT MEETING 8 May at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH***

## ***MAY'S COIN OF THE MONTH***

***Buffalo Nickels***

What's new at

## Nashua Coin and Jewelry.....

Last auction was greatly attended and I was happy to see Brian in the crown, I think he got a few nice items as well. Auctions really are a social event for collectors and dealers and we do have fun. The auctions are always over by around 7:30 so still plenty of time for family and the missus. I hope to see more of you in the future. Next auction is May 18th, consignments are due by April 20th but the sooner the better!

Just had a nice little collection of US currency come in the store. Included was an 1896 \$2 Educational note in Fine and an 1899 \$5 Indian Chief in Fine. Nice collector issues that don't come around too often. Business has been steady but mostly bullion and 90 percent silver. Still waiting for the 2013 Proof sets to come out with lots of requests.

Late in February, I bought a little box of mixed coins from a customer who inherited them from his father who had recently passed. Included was some circulated type pieces, a few Indian and Lincoln cents, a couple circulated silver dollars and some silver dimes, quarters and halves. Nothing extraordinary except a couple Red and Brown Unc Lincolns in the teens. I set the box aside and didn't give it a thought as I was very busy cataloguing and preparing for the auction. After a couple weeks, I finally got around to going through and putting up the few coins I had held out for stock. The early Lincoln cents were a 1911-D in XF, 1911-S in VF, 1916 and 1917 in R&B Choice Uncirculated condition, ordinarily nothing to write about, however 1911 issues and the 1917 scarce varieties. The cherry pickers' guide lists two different repunched mintmarks for the 1911-D, another for the 1911-S, and the 1917 has a very rare and desireable doubled die obverse variety. In the past I've picked a few of the repunched mintmark varieties and once a 17 doubled die in fine condition, so I always check these dates when I get them. No luck with 1911's but, to my utter amazement, the 1917 was a doubled die! The coin still has lots of remaining red and is very choice, I graded it MS64 RB.

Of course I knew immediately, this is a very rare find ! In circulated condition they are valued at a few hundred dollars at the most but in my experience, I've only seen 2 or 3 mint state coins in auction and they always garner high bids. My initial feeling was the coin was worth between \$4,000 and \$5,000 dollars with the potential to realize more to the right buyer. To make a long story short, I showed the coin to some of my contemporaries at the Nashua show and had no shortage of potential buyers. I sold the coin to two local dealers who had a potential customer. Their plan is to get the coin conserved at NGC and certified before offering it for sale and they promised to let me know the outcome. Stay tuned!

Till next month..... Gary Galbo



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*President - Brian Maxfield  
VP - Robert Gabriel  
VP - Bill Roberts  
VP - Charlie Dube  
Secretary - Todd Salmon  
Treasurer - Todd Salmon  
Director - Robert Fritsch  
Librarian - Robert Drew  
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***NEXT MEETING***  
***8 May at the Nashua Public  
Library, Nashua, NH***

***MAY'S COIN OF THE MONTH***

***A Numismatic Item You Don't  
Collect***

## WOODEN NICKELS

Nashua Coin Club

10 April 2013

I purchased a large bag of woods a few years ago and this was the first time I really looked at them. Imagine the happy surprise I got when I found that every state was represented in that bag, most of them with a **STATE SEAL** wooden nickels (Indian on obv), and many with a **SOUVENIR OF (IH)**, so I included them both. Not all wooden tokens are wooden nickels – it must say so on the piece for it to be a real WN as far as I am concerned.

Notes are made for various WNs that I found worthy of comment. I like logos to go along with the words, so you see a **Cool Train** on the first page and a hand-drawn design on page 3. Two woods from IL ( same page) look the same until you view the obverse. The only pieces that are numismatic related are on page 4 under **MA**. The MN American Legion post is not a WN as noted. The lone example from NH says it's a WN without Indian or Buffalo – it is part of a series of 20 that Northwood used in its bicentennial celebrations, and is known as a semi-official. The only Official wood is from New Holland OH. The only difference between the two is that one carries advertising along with the official logo. The After Hours Lounge in Franklin, **PA** is a strange one – is it advertising, a Good For, what? The late Alan Herbert of Krause Publications fame lived in Belle Fourche, **SD**, and you have to wonder if he issued this WN. And under **WV**, wasn't Mingo the Indian companion of Dan'l Boone in the 60s TV series?

After the State section, we get into generic types. A **Maverick** is a token that cannot be attributed to a specific location. Note the TUIT wood on the top row – that is a pun for the procrastinator: Now that you got a **ROUND TUIT**, do something! The problem with mavericks is that they may serve the local purpose, but cause fits with collectors trying to figure out what they are.

**Almost Mavericks** have some clue to the location, in these examples, a phone number. The area code gives the general location, and in only one case was the phone number still active. A reverse lookup on the web was used.

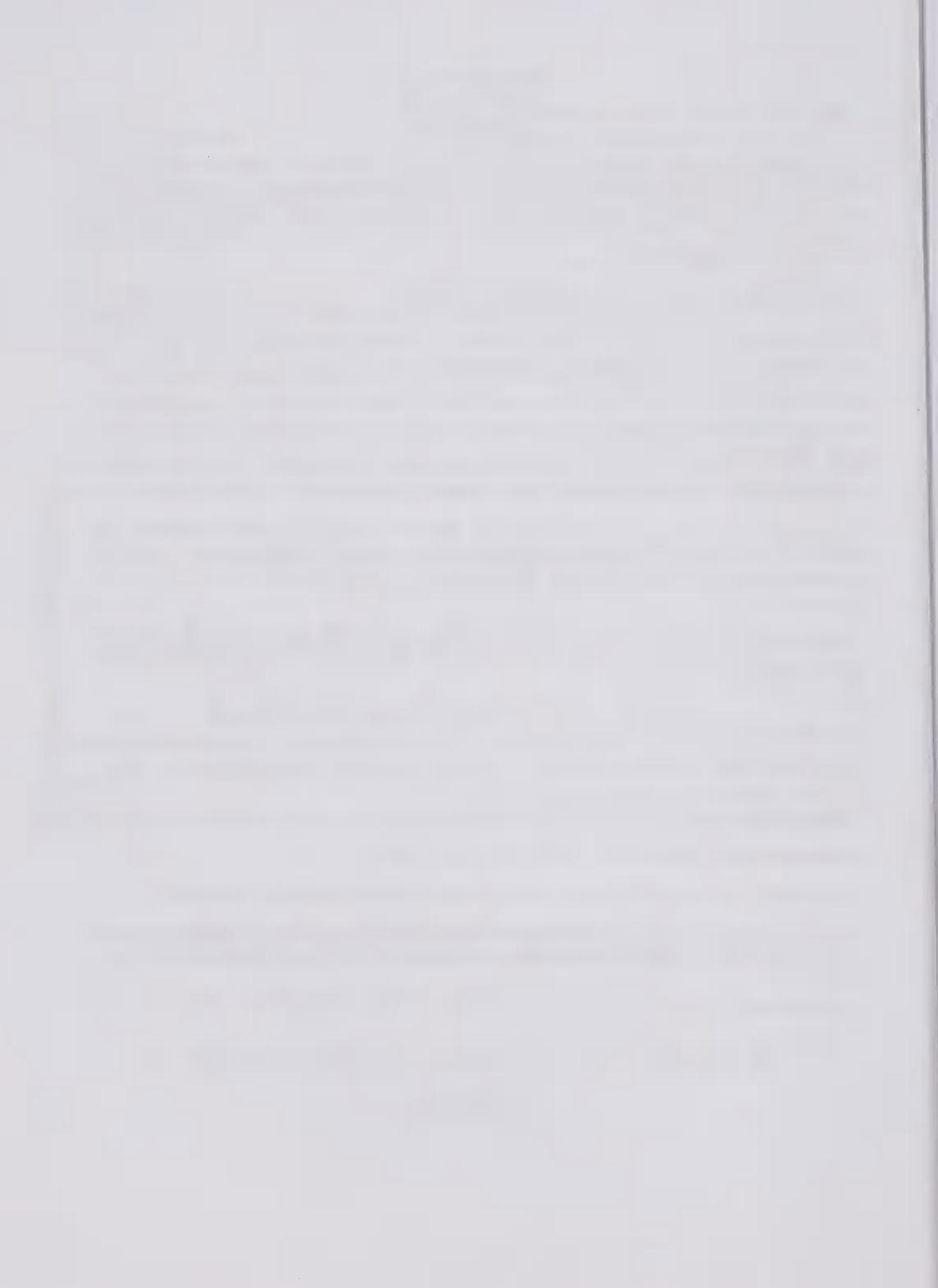
**Good Fors** have a value to them and are used by many establishments to attract business or to defer delivery of a product. You can see that the first two examples are generic and can be used anywhere that uses the same token. One bar put a stamp on its GF to make it good only in that establishment. Best is the fourth example that tells exactly where to redeem it, if only we knew where it is located. And the last example has both the stamp and the specific message.

A few woods in that collection had **strange critters** as you can see.

There were a few **Error** woods in there, with a two tailed WN and one of dual denomination.

Finally we focus on the obverses of the WNs with a Herd of Buffalo, Odd Denominations, and a Tribe of Indians. Of course there are lots more designs out there but that was what the bag contained.

As you can see, WNs offer a wide variety of possibilities and a nice collection can be built for little cost.





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

May 2013  
Volume 17 Number 5  
Whole Number 207

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
8 May 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:07PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twelve members and three guests were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's Report in the absence of the Secretary. Correspondence was the bank statement, the annual library room renewal and ANA magazine.

Under Old Business, Brian said the club answers to the National Coin Week Trivia Challenge were submitted and that we expect the Grand Prize will be sent to us soon. He also mentioned the NCW display that he, Bob G, and Bob F did at the library on 27 April, where there was good interest. Bob F mentioned that the Life Member criteria is documented in the club flyer, with 20 years of continuous membership the qualifier. Brian mentioned that we can get five of the "100 Greatest" books for around \$100 and all we have to do is figure out which libraries get them.

Gary announced that his next auction will be on 18 May with free supper at the preview on Thursday 16 May. He has two 1799 Bust Dollars from the collection of Don P in the sale. He passed around a 5-star General insignia said to have belonged to Douglas MacArthur. Centennial Auctions has their next sale on Monday, 13 May at the Holiday Inn. The recent firing of the ANA Executive Director and immediate appointment of a new one led to some speculation as to the cause but the absence of information makes true determination impossible. Possible sites for the annual banquet in October were discussed with several people to explore venues and report next meeting.

Coin of the Month was Stuff You Do Not Collect And Are Willing To Donate To A Club Auction. The table on the next page shows who donated what, and who bought it for how much:

Brian won the attendance raffle of \$3.25. Our new guest was Jarred who works with Gary twice a week. He likes Peace Dollars, Indian cents, and everything underpriced. Our returning YN guest Matthew reported on two of the items he was given last month, a Bicentennial medal and a 50 Mon coin from China. Brian kicked off Show & Tell with a Leominster town medal featuring Johnny Appleseed, an elongated coin from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair rolled on an IH cent, and encased IH from the 1909 Alaska-Yukon Expo held in Seattle, and a set of IH earrings for his wife. Gary had a Maria Theresa Thaler, a golden Clark's Trading Post 80th Anniversary medal, and a paperweight containing a JFK Half Dollar and a quote from his Inaugural Address. Bob had a binder full of modern German Mint sets and a wall sconce featuring John Calvin sculpted by Antoine Bovy. Fred had a "challenge coin" from the Air Force band which was presented to him at Hanscom AFB and an enameled Bedford Flag town medal in sterling, edge marked STER-602. Jarred had a 1909 VDB with beautiful blue toning and a few scratches.

The next COTM will be Copper-Nickel Clad Coinage. The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is 12 June.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert F. Fritsch  
Recording

# Coin Survival-A Torturous Route

F.A. Liberatore

Base metal coins of 1965-1998, intended for circulation, have had a low survival rate in pristine condition. Some survive by very strange circumstances and have a story to tell. Here is how a few survived. One afternoon, the day before trash day, while walking my neighborhood, I spotted a box among a pile of trash that looked interesting. (This was before the lidded barrels appeared.) I went back in my car on my way to work the next morning to pick up the box. It was 6:30 am and the lady of the house had stepped out to get the paper. To my question, "Can I have this box?" she responded "It's yours." That afternoon I went through the box on arriving home. In some ways I wish I had never seen that box, taken it or opened it. Inside was everything related to a brief human life. There were congratulation cards, photographs, gifts, toys, a christening gown, baby clothes, bottles, a formula can and scoop and then sadly condolence cards, a funeral register and newspapers with the obituary for a baby that died of Sudden Infant Death syndrome.

Most of the gifts were still wrapped. One rattled. That turned out to be a bank with a note from a happy grandmother and a gift of money, shiny new coins from the early 1980's worth a dollar or two and a \$20 bill! That's a lot of money to find in the trash. Finally, there was the anguished letter from a husband, written in the middle of the night, sadly wondering how to put the marriage back on a happy track after this tragedy. Lingering questions...Was the lady who said take the box the child's mother? Likely not, she wasn't old enough although I suspect she knew what was in the box. Did the marriage break up? I'd say so based on then current phone directory information. The value of the coins? Low. Common issues in pristine condition. The real find was the \$20 bill. Intense grief and emotion prevented the couple from ever looking at what the child had been given. Some collecting and treasure hunting is not so happy.

From	Item	Cost	To
Kevin	Large Magafer	\$1	Chr
Kevin	Box of Error Coins	\$5	Jam
Bob F	Bag of Railroad Extrams	\$10	Mat
John	1946 UK silver set, final year of silver coinage	\$25	Mat
Gary	Bag of 10 Dimesize Elongateds	\$4	Kev
Ken Y	3 bags of foreign coins	\$9	Ron
Cliff	2 Red Books, 1961/2005	\$2	Gus
Charlie	Sands Hotel Atlantic City \$1 shot taken and Wallace Stucker	\$1	Kev
Brian	5 tokens, Lowell Town Medal, 2 miscreated \$1 silver certificates	\$5	Bob
Jared	1953 1¢ Partial Collar Broadstrike error	\$1	Jam
Mark	Pack of plastic 2x2 pages	\$5	Bob
Total to the club was \$48			
Many thanks to all who participated			

*Nashua Coin Club Members,*

*Here is a copy of the e-mail I received from Andy Dickes at the American Numismatic Association highlighting our first place win in the Club Trivia Challenge!!*

*Thanks to all who helped put together the correct answers. We obviously had a little luck on our side also with the drawing. Hopefully I will have our prize, a 2008 1/10th Ounce Gold Buffalo and the certificate by the time the meeting arrives.*

*Brian*

*Dear member clubs,*

*Thanks again for participating in the Club Trivia Challenge. Attached are the correct answers. Because I was not as specific as I should have been in wording question #11, I accepted both C and D as correct answers.*

*Congratulations to the 6 clubs who received perfect scores! A drawing was held to determine prizes, and here are your winners:*

*1st place: Nashua Coin Club*

*2nd place: Pee Dee Area Coin Club*

*3rd place: Dallas Coin Club*

*4th place: Twin Ports Coin & Currency Club*

*5th place: Cedar Rapids Coin Club*

*6th place: Cincinnati Numismatic Association*

*I will be in contact with these 6 clubs about their prizes. Each club who participated in the trivia challenge will receive a prize and certificate of appreciation in the coming weeks. Thank you all again for your participation in the Club Trivia Challenge and the 90th annual National Coin Week. Have a great weekend!*

*Andy Dickes*

*American Numismatic Association*

*2013 OFFICERS*

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VP - Bill Roberts  
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## ***NEXT MEETING 12 June at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH***

## ***JUNE'S COIN OF THE MONTH***

***Copper Nickel Clad Coinage***



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

June 2013  
Volume 17 Number 6  
Whole Number 208

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
12 June 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by Vice President Bob Gabriel with the Pledge of Allegiance. Eleven members and one guest were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report was approved. Correspondence included the usual bank statement and flyers as well as an article from WSJ Magazine on the use of coins in art sent by former member Mark. Also received was the ANA ballot. It was motioned and approved that the club will vote for Scott Rottinghaus, Jeff Swindling, Greg Lyon, Richard Jozefiak and Steve D'Ippolito. Club member Bart Bartanowicz sent us some wooden nickels from the Venice Coin Club in FL. They will be placed in the December White Elephant sale. In old business Bob G. gave a copy of the Nashua Telegraph article on our ANA Coin Week participation as well as our current medal ad in the Bunyan Chips. Discussed was our winning of the ANA National Coin Week club challenge. Nothing further has been communicated from the ANA at this point but we are the winners of a 1/10 oz. gold eagle. Gary talked about his article on hobo nickels. He also mentioned that he has a collectable auction June 27 and the Small Cents auction on July 20. He is extending hours at Nashua Coin & Jewelry Wednesday through Friday to 7pm. Bob brought up that he had visited the Grand Buffet in Nashua for our October banquet. It was voted that this will be our venue. Also voted was approval of Rae Fellows as guest speaker to discuss concentration camp money of WWII. Cliff brought in a Coin World article on the new

Beth Deisher book called Cash in Your Coins.

Fred discussed his article on a find in trash pile and the sad story that went along with the discovery. Fred also was the lucky winner of the \$2.50 attendance raffle. The COTM drawing was won by Bob G. It consisted of a 1979-P SBA dollar, a 1978-D Ike dollar, a 1999-D half dollar, statehood quarters from WY & MO., a Japanese 100 yen, as well as a 1965 Winston Churchill Commemorative crown. Since Bob G had contributed the crown he threw it back in for a second drawing and Cliff won it.

Coin of the month was copper nickel clad coinage. Cliff passed around a very nice 1913 Canadian specimen set.

Show and Tell followed with Fred showing two porcelain gaming tokens from Thailand. He also had a set of Haitian coins from 1981 with a low mintage of 15,000. Bob F. had the 5oz. White Mountain silver uncirculated puck as well as the 2013-D Native American dollars which he made available for sale to those present.

The meeting was closed at 8:53 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 10. The coin of the month will be coins that failed for one reason or another.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## United States Failed Coins

By Brian Maxfield

There are many instances of failed coins since the United States began minting coins 220 years ago. These failures have been for a variety of reasons. Here are some of my impressions of failed United States coins going from past to present. This only focuses on circulating coinage.

1793 Chain Cent – A one year type, this coin failed due to design. The primary reason was due to the misinterpretation of the chain on the reverse. Meant to show the unity of the thirteen colonies, it gave the illusion of slavery.

1857 Half Cent/Large Cent - This year saw the end of these two coins. Successful for many decades, the half cent failed due to being a denomination no longer being needed and the Large Cent failed due to the cost of copper needed to mint a coin that size being impractical.

Flying Eagle Cent – A two year series (1856 was a pattern year). This coin failed due to the inability of the mint to strike up the design adequately. The obverse frequently has weak details in the eagle. It was only minted for two years.

Two Cent piece – The two cent piece was initially minted due to the need for minor coinage in circulation because of hoarding caused by the Civil War. The first few years saw large mintages and decent circulation but by the early 1870's silver coins were re-entering circulation it was no longer needed.

Three Cent silver and nickel coins – The silver version began its mintage in 1851 and saw its demise in the coin hoarding of the Civil War. The three cent nickel version was minted due to the hoarding of the silver version (and other coins) and circulated similar to the two cent coin through the early 1870's.

Twenty Cent piece – The twenty cent piece was the biggest denominational failure in our history. Minted for two years with another two years of Proof mintage, the public for the most part totally ignored the coin.

Three Dollar Gold coins – Considering we had a \$2.50 gold coin being minted, it was an odd choice of denomination. Theories about need are related to the ability to buy one hundred 3 cent stamps or 3 cent pieces. Pretty poor reasons if true.

The late 1800's through the mid 1900's saw a pattern of good decision making at the Mint, resulting in stability and no clear coin failures during that time. Unfortunately we have made up for lost time over the last few decades.

Kennedy Half Dollars – This failure was a combination of factors, primarily the initial public desire of the coin and the change to clad coins in 1965. People lined up at banks to get the new Kennedy Half Dollars. They were hoarded due to the popularity. Clad dimes and quarters were minted as of 1965. Silver coins would gradually disappear from circulation through the 1960's. Kennedy halves minted with 40% silver through the 1960's didn't help and assured that these would not circulate. To this day half dollars have never found their way back into circulation. It is still minted, although now only in limited quantities. The inability to pull a very popular President off of a coin assures that it will be around for a while.

## Eisenhower/Susan B.

Anthony/Sacagawea/Presidential Dollars – This is probably the biggest ongoing failure so far in the history of the Mint. The idea of continuing to mint Dollar coins of various sizes, designs and colors with the hope that they circulate is ridiculous. The Eisenhower Dollar was minimally successful only because of the novelty and Bicentennial celebration, neither of which led to any circulation. The Susan B. Anthony

*was a miserable failure due to the proximity of size to the quarter. The Sacagawea and Presidential Dollars have been no more successful. The newer Sacagawea/Native American coins have some very attractive designs, but are only seen by collectors. The Presidential Dollars have been compared to gas station tokens. As we all know, the bottom line is that unless the dollar bill is taken out of circulation the dollar coins will not circulate.*

*Lincoln Cent – Historically a success, some might consider this coin a current failure. The Lincoln Cent has already seen one major composition change in 1982 due to the cost of copper. Many would say that the one cent coin has outlived its practicality in commerce and should be discontinued. Doing away with a coin that has the bust of Abraham Lincoln is probably something that politicians do not want to be connected to.*

*It would be nice to think that maybe we would learn from our mistakes of the past but I have a feeling that we are likely to see more, probably sooner than we think! I would be curious to hear other opinions about these or maybe other U.S. coins.*

#### *SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013*

*Bob Fritsch*

*\* = Mint Release*

*\*09 Jul – Taft Presidential Dollar  
10 JUL – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM  
14 Jul – Auburn  
\*18 Jul – 2013 Platinum American Eagle 1oz Proof Coin  
20 Jul – Small Cents II Auction  
21 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN  
\*25 Jul – 2013 Unc Dollar Mint Set  
28 Jul – Westford*

*\*08 Aug – 2013 American Buffalo 1oz Gold Reverse Proof Coin  
11 Aug – Auburn  
13-17 Aug – ANA Rosemont  
14 AUG – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM  
18 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN  
25 Aug – Westford  
\*26 Aug – Fort McHenry NM (MD) Quarter  
26 Aug – Centennial Auction, Holiday Inn*

What's new at

## Nashua Coin and Jewelry.....

Gary Galbo

*Summer's here ..... and the time is right for dancing in the street.....sorry lost my track there for a second; but summer is here and that's always a tough time to make a living in the coin biz.*

*We just finished our very first collectibles auction June 27th , sold some stuff, had some fun and met some new people. We also learned what not to do next time....don't try and compete with the weekly Thursday night auction in Concord. Turnout was a little light. Next collectibles auction will be July 31st Wednesday night. I think with time we can generate a following and hope some of you will attend in the future. Lots of interesting stuff at bargain prices!*

*Last month we had a very nice Lincoln cent collection come in, mostly XF to CH BU. The highlights of the set were 1909-S MS63 RB, 1912-S MS64 BN, 1919-D MS63BN, 1922-D MS64 RB, 1924-S MS64 BN, 1927-D MS64 RB which all graded at PCGS, but the best item was a lovely 1955/1955 Doubled die which came back from PCGS as MS64 BN. The 55 is the classic doubled die error of all time and by far the most famous although far too many people mistakenly refer to it as a double strike. This also the most popular and sought after American coin error and quite possibly the most sought after coin error in the world.*

*You may not be aware of this but the majority of the 55 double dies were released right here in New England. Apparently they were shipped from the mint to Brinks and Wells Fargo branches in western Massachusetts where they were paid out to banks and vending companies for change. A large percentage were used in tobacco vending machines. At the time a package of cigarettes was around 23 cents so the vending companies habitually would insert enough pennies inside the cellophane package of cigarettes so they could be vended at 25 cents. This is also the reason why 55 doubled die coins are usually brown with red coins being very rare as the tobacco helped tone the coins almost immediately often unevenly leaving blotchy brown surfaces with red highlights. In years past we always considered them as Red-Brown coins with any trace of red, however thanks to the grading services, today coins with less than 60% red remaining are now classified as Brown. Anyway the coin I bought was a lovely evenly colored Brown-Red coin classified as Brown by PCGS and is now in the hands of an appreciative collector.*

I have just wrapped up the catalog for my July 20th coin auction. There are 585 lots and this catalog represents one of the best auctions I have ever had. Some of the highlights include colonial coins - nice Fugio and New Jersey cents; an XF 1796 capped bust cent; several high grade early large cents from the colonial era. Also included is a lovely 1864 small motto 2 cent piece, proof type coins including a 3c nickel and seated liberty quarter; a mint state salvaged half from the SS Republic wreck, and very nice 1803/2 \$5 gold piece AU details. There is something for everyone so I hope to see some club members in attendance. Till next month....

## *Failed Coinages*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*Coinages fail to be accepted and circulate for five reasons: the coins are too small to be easily handled and are easily lost, the coins are too big to be easily handled and carried, easy confusion with other denominations, in a hard money society, base metal coins of any significant value are rejected-sometimes even those of insignificant value are rejected-and finally, inflation can make a formerly useful coin worthless and an annoyance.*

*The earliest coinage failure I am aware of came about when various Greek cities struck small change in silver. A Greek drachm weighed 4.3 grams. Our silver dime weighs 2.5 grams. A drachm was divided into 6 obols of about 0.72 grams each. Fractional obols were struck in 3/4 th, 1/2, 3/8 th, 1/4, and 1/8 th obol. The smallest weighed 0.09 grams. Although small, all of these coins had real value and losing them was keenly felt. As soon as the Greeks invented a token bronze coinage, all of these minis quickly disappeared.*

*Too small coins have been a plague in recent times. The US silver 3 cent piece, the half dime, the Canadian and Newfoundland 5 cent "fish scale" coins are all examples of poorly designed coins. The first US nickel of 1866 helped end the 5 cent silver coin. Canada followed suit in 1922 with a pure nickel 5 cent coin. Newfoundland continued the tiny 5 cent piece until 1947.*

*Too big coins have been seen periodically beginning with Greek decadadrachms which weighed about 40 grams (roughly 1.5 ounces.) A single coin was a fortune in and of itself. Lots of big silver coins have been issued since the late 13 th century but the question is how much did they circulate? I suspect only as long as there was no good alternative which came along soon enough (letters of credit and paper money.) Silver dollars have never done well in the United States. Yes, they circulated, but think of all the banknotes and US paper currency used as an alternative. Of course the large Ike cupronickel dollars were an utter failure and never circulated to any degree. Size does matter.*

*The US Mint made a fatal error with the short lived 20 cent piece which had an identical obverse and reverse design with the quarter and was nearly the same size. One has to ask, "Why did they miss something this obvious?" The designers of the Susan B. Anthony cupronickel dollar really have no excuse. The coin is slightly larger than a quarter and not much thicker. It was easily confused with a quarter and rejected by the public for the most part.*

*The Spanish authorities in Mexico attempted to introduce a token copper coinage. In a land awash in silver and gold, the population utterly rejected these coins in the 16 th century. Base metal coins did not win acceptance in Mexico until the 18 th century.*

*King Kamehameha III issued copper one cent pieces in 1847 which the natives utterly rejected. The mintage, 100,000, was not large and most were, sadly, thrown into the sea by the unhappy populace. Today, it is a rare coin with even battered specimens worth a good price.*

*Inflation has made many coins obsolete. The British 1/2 new pence was dropped for this reason, The 1 and 2 eurocent are likely candidates for elimination. I had trouble getting any in change. Prices in Rome, Florence, and Venice were generally to the nearest 5 eurocents. Australia and New Zealand discontinued their 1 and 2 cent coins years ago. Canada just eliminated the cent. In truth, the US cent and yes the nickel too are virtually worthless and are more valuable as metal than as current money.*

*The US gold dollars have been a failure as a circulating currency and yet they should not be a failure. Their thickness and color (and grubby unattractive toning) set them apart from other circulating coins so confusion and size are not the reason they do not circulate. Instead we have a much better alternative, the paper dollar. Although we could save 100 million dollars a year, I'll happily pay the 33 cents or so in extra taxes to keep the paper dollar. Maybe some of us coin collectors will be interested in the gold dollars. Happy Collecting.*

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**NEXT MEETING**  
*10 July at the Nashua Public  
Library, Nashua, NH*

**JULY'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

***Failed Coin Series***



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

July 2013  
Volume 17 Number 7  
Whole Number 209

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
10 July 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Ten members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to include the approved \$50 for our banquet speaker and noted as such. The Treasurer's report was read and approved. Correspondence included the usual bank statement and flyers as well as the library room confirmation for July to June 2014. Also received was the NH Coin & Currency Expo October table confirmation. Brian will complete the form and send it in. In old business it was noted that the ANA prize coin had not been received. Bob F provided information on the ANA schedule and that he expects we will hear in the next few weeks. Tickets are printed for the October Banquet to be held Monday, October 14 at the Grand Buffet in Nashua and will be available for purchase at the August and September meetings. The price is unchanged from last year at \$10 per member and \$15 for nonmembers. Also in old business the Central States library program was discussed. Bob G will order the books from Brooklyn Gallery. In new business Gary's upcoming July auction was discussed.

Brian and Fred discussed their articles on the coin of the month. THE COTM was failed coins. Bob G showed a Horatio Gates medal from the Americas First Medals series. Todd showed his 2008 Ron Paul one ounce silver \$20 Liberty Dollars coin.

The COTM drawing was won by Bob F. It consisted of a 3 1979-Susan B Anthony dollars; a 1972 Eisenhower dollar; a 1971 Kennedy half; a Washington medal from the Americas First Medals series; a 1975 English new penny, a 1995 5 pesos from Chile. Brian won the attendance raffle of \$2.25.



Show and Tell followed with Todd sending around his 1985 and 1986 Egyptian proofs with mintages of 500 each. Bob F had all kinds on BEP literature on the new \$100 bills that are being released October 8 as well as a road kill 1982 nickel found in the parking lot. Fred showed his 2013 US mint set and a Portuguese 30 centavos and Indian ½ rupee. John Z brought in a WSJ add for an 1861 confederate cent restrike in pure silver from the New York Mint. Frank had a set of 15 cents found in folders in his father's drawer. Ten of them were from 1896. Brian wrapped things up with a mix of authentic and fake Confederate currency. He also brought some counter stamped coins: an Indian Head cent with 004-05-4151 on it and a large cent with C.Dale. He also brought in the 2013 Fiji 10 dollar coin from the Fascinating Wildlife series featuring an eagle.

The meeting was closed at 8:55 PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 14. The coin of the month will be sports related coins.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

# *Modern American Colonial Coinage*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*The United States became a world power after the Civil War and played the imperialism game with the rest of the big boys in the 19 th and early 20 th century.*

*Our first colony was Hawaii which had been a frequent stop for American whalers and missionaries. Hawaii had five official coins, a cent dated 1847 (rejected by the natives and rare today) plus 1883 dated 10, 25, 50 cents and a silver dollar. They were struck in San Francisco and were identical to US coins. With territorial status in 1900 most were recalled and melted. All Hawaiian coins are scarce to rare. There were private tokens used in Hawaii. A "common" one in fine condition catalogs for over \$500. (Reference Redbook 2013 p 505-6) Alaska became a US Colony in the last half of the 19 th century via a purchase from the Russians whom I doubt really knew what they were selling. Alaska, I'm sure, had tokens and I may have seen one, once. The classic Alaskan tokens are the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Tokens of 1935. They came in denominations of 1 cent to 10 dollars with a total mintage of all types of just 25,000. Most were redeemed and destroyed. You might find a common one for \$100. (Redbook p412, 2013)*

*Puerto Rico became a US possession as a result the lopsided Spanish-American War of 1898. To try and regularize a monetary mess the Spanish authorities issued in 1895-96 silver 5, 10, 20, and 40 centavo pieces and a peso. Total mintage of all types was about 14 million. Most of these coins were eventually recalled and melted. A fine 5, 10, or 20 centavo should be available with looking for \$30-50. They are not common coins but can be found with a search. Tokens? All rare I expect. Unlike Alaska and Hawaii, Puerto Rico has long been a drag on the United States. I wish their independence movement well. (Redbook p 406) The Philippines also became a US colony after the Spanish American War but it required a grim, bloody guerilla war before the natives unwillingly accepted their lot.*

*Spain had occupied the islands for centuries but their control of these rugged, jungle covered island was*



*loose beyond Manila. The Spanish issued coins and specifically counter stamped coins from the mid 18 th century until late in the 19 th century. Most of the coins are uncommon except the 1868 dated minor coins which were extensively restruck. A good specimen can be had at times for the melt silver value. Were there tokens under Spanish rule? I have not seen any. Colonial coinage for the Philippines under US control began in 1903 and amazingly included proof sets! Sadly, they did not sell well and many were released into circulation at face value. Half centavos were issued for circulation in 1903-4 only. Copper centavos, copper-nickel 5 centavos plus silver 10, 20, 50 centavos and a crown sized peso were all issued. An increase in silver prices caused a size and fineness reduction in the silver coins after 1907. Coins of the Commonwealth began in 1937. An enormous amount of coinage was issued in 1944 and 1945. This coinage was struck at all three mints at one time or another plus the mint set up in Manila. Much of this coinage, especially the later issues, can be found as junk silver or in junk boxes if made of base metal. This is a collectable colonial series whereas those previously described are not unless you are wealthy.*

*Tokens of the Philippines likely exist but are unknown to me. The regular issues are all listed in the Red Book p407-411.) Panama became independent via a US arranged "revolution." Colombia would not grant the US permission to build the Panama Canal but the new nation did immediately with the long term use of the Canal Zone. Coins appeared in 1904. Some Panamanian coinage is identical to US coinage. Interesting date collections could be formed of the 1, 5, 10, 25, and 50 centavo coins. Much of it, with the exception of the early silver issues, is available as junk silver or base metal junk box finds. Panamanian coinage is on par with US coinage.*

# SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

\*08 Aug - 2013 American Buffalo 1oz Gold Reverse Proof Coin

11 Aug - Auburn

13-17 Aug - ANA Rosemont

14 AUG - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

18 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

25 Aug - Westford

\*26 Aug - Fort McHenry NM (MD) Quarter

26 Aug - Centennial Auction, Holiday Inn



## NASHUA COIN CLUB

[www.NashuaCoinClub.org](http://www.NashuaCoinClub.org)

COME JOIN THE FUN!

### 2013 Annual Banquet

October 14, 2013

Grand Buffet Restaurant & Lounge

350 Amherst Street

Nashua, NH 03063

603-881-9799

Cash bar is available.

Cocktails at 6:00 PM ~ Dinner/Meeting 7:00-9:00 PM

Good Friends    Good Food    Great Speaker

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE NUMISMATISTS SINCE 1960

*2013 OFFICERS*

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VP - Charlie Dube  
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## **NEXT MEETING**

*14 August at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH*

## **AUGUST'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

*Sports Related Coins*



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

August 2013  
Volume 17 Number 8  
Whole Number 210

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

14 August 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:07 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Six members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved.

Correspondence included the usual bank statement and magazines as well as our first place prize from the ANA. It was a beautiful 2008-W \$5 gold buffalo. It will be in the annual White Elephant sale in December. In new business it was suggested to create two tiers of membership.

Those that want to receive the bulletin by mail would pay \$15 per year and those who go with email would pay \$10. Life members would be unaffected by the change. It was determined to table this discussion until next meeting. Also in new business were Gary's upcoming auctions at his store in August. Next month is the voting for the annual awards including the Numismatic Achievement, Gold Medal, and Literary awards. In old business the library books were in. The confirmed libraries are Nashua, Hampstead, Hudson, Concord, and Billerica. The remaining library was to be determined. Randy was going to check with Kevin on Tyngsboro. Todd had the tickets for the October 14 award banquet at the Grand Buffet in Nashua available. They are \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Show and Tell started early tonight with Gary showing several pieces. He had a 1925 Pius XI medal and a 2008 80th anniversary Clark's Trading Post token. He also had a medal commemorating the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine's second century from New York.

The attendance raffle of \$1.50 was won by Fred. The COTM drawing consisted of an Indiana and Kentucky quarter and was won by Todd.

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

- 6-7 Sep - Bay State Marlboro
- 8 Sep - Auburn
- 11 SEP - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM
- 15 SEP - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
- 22 Sep - Westford
- \*24 Sep - Uncirculated Dollar Mint Set
- 28 Sep - Small Cents II Auction
  
- 4-5 Oct - NH Coin & Currency Expo, Manchester
- 5 Oct - NENA ANNUAL MEETING, MANCHESTER
- 13 Oct - Auburn
- 14 OCT (Mon) - NCC ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, GRAND BUFFET
- \*17 Oct - Woodrow Wilson Presidential Dollar
- 20 OCT - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN
- 27 Oct - Westford

The coin of the month topic was sports. Fred showed his 1980, 81, and 82 Spanish World Cup Soccer coins. Todd sent around a 1994 proof US World Cup Soccer dollar as well as a 1995 Olympic cycling dollar in PCGS PF-69. Bill had a Canadian Olympic set of quarters from the 2010 Vancouver games. He also had a couple first day covers: one with a 1995 US Olympic baseball half dollar and one with a 1996 US Olympic high jump dollar in mint state. Brian followed with a Babe Ruth Shrine medal, a 1997 Brett Favre MVP silver round, a XXXIX Superbowl two tone flip coin, a 1988 Canadian proof \$20 Calgary hockey. And finally a 1992 prestige set with the US baseball dollar.

The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 11. The coin of the month will be mint packaging; everything from drab to dapper.

Respectfully submitted,

*Usually an Afterthought-Mint Packaging of  
Collector Coins*  
F. A. Liberatore

In my reading about coins I have seen little about mint packaging. However, stories in the past couple of years in the Numismatist have shed some light on the subject.

*It would seem that the early mint, which began regularly supplying coins to collectors around the Civil War, carried out the business very casually. Proof coins were struck to order and priced by today's standards very modestly. For the minor denominations 2X face value was the price. Higher denominations likely had a small premium relative to their face value. Packaging was a casual affair of paper wrapping. We can be sure that any coins left wrapped in the paper tarnished like crazy except gold coins. Paper from wood pulp, unless especially manufactured, contains residual acid which deteriorates the paper over time and tarnishes copper and silver coins thoroughly. (I have a 1931 Yugoslav 20 dinar coin in an original collector paper envelope dated 1948. Is that coin ever heavily toned!)*

*Considering the fact that the mint's production of proof coins seldom went above a few thousand prior to 1916, the collector base relative to coin production was a curious mismatch. I expect the mint felt about coin collectors and their proof coin requests the way campers feel about the mosquitoes buzzing around the camp and distracting them from their camping experience. I doubt any thought was given to how the coins for the collectors were packaged.*

*Mint packaging from 1936-1954 utilized cellophane envelopes which were then placed in cardboard boxes. The cellophane is relatively inert and if the coins were NOT kept in the paper boxes for too long would survive quite well as long as the cellophane remains intact. Brilliant proofs from this era are common. 1954-1964 also marked the era of the flat packed, brilliant proof sets. Again the cellophane inner packaging has meant brilliant proofs from that era are quite common.*

*Since 1965 US proof like or proof annual sets have been sent out in hard plastic holders with the coins pushed into an insert which I presume is plastic since I have never seen coins corroded by it. If it is paper it is relatively inert. Current US mint sets are in*

*excellent semi-flexible plastic holders.*

*Foreign coins are an interesting story in that some are packaged for the ages and others have in 40 or so years been ruined by their packaging. In the 1950's and into the early 1960's foreign proof coins were not commonly made. Those that were often came in velvet lined boxes with the coins directly inserted. My 1953 New Zealand proof set from 1953 has hazy coins which were supplied in paper envelopes but has the velvet lined box they originally came in. My 1955 Caribbean Territories set has carbon spotting due to the velvet box. I have a Bahamas set from the 1970's that also has the velvet box disease.*

*Proof coin sets of Nepal were sold by the Paramount International Coin Corp of Ohio in the 1970's. Their mintage figures are low but I expect most of the coins have been ruined by the acidic cardboard used to hold the coins inside an excellent hard plastic case. The nickel coins seem to stand up fairly well but the aluminum/magnesium/bronze coins corrode terribly. The insert material can also cloud brilliant coin surfaces as I have seen on a Falkland Islands Proof and a 1983 Bermuda set, both from the Royal Mint. All collectors should be aware that polyvinyl chloride flips are NOT suitable for long term coin storage. The plasticizer which makes them flexible will bleed out and cloud/corrode coin surfaces.*

*I would like to believe that most mints now know how to package coins for long term storage but I would not bet on it. Happy Collecting.*



What's new at

## Nashua Coin and Jewelry.....

Summer's just about gone, kids are back to school. Just back from vacation at the beach and ready to rock! We have our next collectibles auction Wednesday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and or next coin auction is re-scheduled for Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup>. We'll br previewing lots at the New Hampshire expo October 3-5, in Manchester.

Nothing too exciting has happened in rare coins over the summer, mostly wheat cents and scrap silver coins. We are looking forward to the New Hampshire Coin Expo in Manchester October 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> and hope to see a lot of you there.

The other day I had a wonderful collection come in the store of Rare numismatic treasures from the American Mint. The collection consisted of rare dollar and half dollar size tribute coins from the Republic of Liberia, complete with numbered certificates of authenticity and a guarantee from the American Mint (See the attached Scans). Actually more of a tribute to P.T. Barnum and his motto "There's a sucker born every minute". Some of these purport to be silver plated and of course the collector thought they were all silver and was quite surprised to find they were relatively worthless.

In truth, they were interesting from an artistic standpoint as they depicted some famous historic occasions such as the Discovery of America, The first man on the moon, The Mayflower, and the sinking of the Titanic. Also included is a nice representation of Air Force one, The Sidney Olympic Games, and a copy of the Lafayette dollar. Great looking coins but at best worth \$20 to \$25 for the collection except maybe the Lafayette Dollar copy which is silver plated and kind of nice.. I shudder to think what he paid for them. So til next month....happy hunting and remember, if it sounds to good to be true .....buyer beware!







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VP - Charlie Dube  
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## *NEXT MEETING*

# *11 September at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH*

## **SEPTEMBER'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

*Mint Packaaina*



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

September 2013  
Volume 17 Number 9  
Whole Number 211

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
11 September 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence to mark the anniversary of 9/11. Seventeen members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved. A motion was made to pay 2014 club dues to Central States and NENA. In old business Brian passed around our ANA certificate for winning the Coin Week Club Trivia Challenge. The annual awards banquet is Monday October 14 at the Grand Buffet Restaurant & Lounge on Amherst Street, Nashua. Cocktail hour is at 6 and the banquet starts at 7. Members are \$10 and guests \$15. The NH Coin and Currency show is October 4 & 5 and volunteers were shored up to cover our club table. Randy distributed the books to donate to the area libraries. A ballot vote was conducted for the winners of this year's awards. The results will be revealed at the award banquet in October.

Bob F gave a trip report on the World Fair of Money in Chicago. He had lots of books, awards and stories to share. Fred gave a quick book review on Torongo's new book Collecting Medieval Coins: A beginners Guide. John passed around a Wall Street Journal article on a display of ancients currently on display at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The attendance raffle of \$3.75 was won by Brian.

Coin of the month was mint packaging. Fred brought in a number of items including a 1971 Liberian set, a 1983 Bermuda set, and a 1972 Cook Islands. Bob F had a diverse box of European mint sets he obtained for less than \$20 each. Randy showed a 2013 presidential proof set, an uncirculated 2013 White Mountain 5 oz. silver piece, and an example of poor quality coins in a US 2010 uncirculated set. Cliff sent around a very nice set of the 5 star general coins. Bob G showed a 1985 1 pound coin from Wales produced by the Royal Mint.

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

4-5 Oct – NH Coin & Currency Expo, Manchester

### 5 Oct – NENA ANNUAL MEETING, MANCHESTER

13 Oct – Auburn

### 14 OCT (Mon) – NCC ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, GRAND BUFFET

\*17 Oct – Woodrow Wilson Presidential Dollar

20 OCT - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

27 Oct – Westford

This kicked off show and tell as Bob G also had wooden nickels commemorating his daughter's wedding from a few weeks prior. He made examples available to those in attendance. John was able to obtain from a family member some Cuban coins. A 1 peso and 25 centavos called convertible pesos. Todd had a Central American Republic 1830 1 real from Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Brian had a new Mico Kaufman medal commemorating the Boston 300 jubilee as well as counterstrikes from the Tanenbaum collection including a Jacob Rogers & Co 2 cent piece and a Batchelder from Lowell, MA. Bob F had a set of the Palau colorized dollars, a Bay State 1710 spoon from Geneva as well as a similar medal marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Geneva. He also brought in a set of 4 Clark's Trading post tokens, a Woodstock anniversary medal of the Old Man of the Mountain and the 2013 NE-NNA medal. Cliff showed his new 2013 West Point anniversary set of silver eagles including the reverse proof and Frank sent his 1837 cent around the room that he found as part of his dad's collection.

The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is the annual awards banquet at the Grand Buffet Restaurant on Monday, October 14. The coin of the month for the November meeting will be foreign coins.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

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## **NEXT MEETING**

***14 October at the Grand Buffet  
on Amherst Street, Nashua, NH***

## **OCTOBER'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

### **Fortune Cookies**



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

October 2013  
Volume 17 Number 10  
Whole Number 212

If you missed this year's banquet, you missed a lot.

Our speaker was Ray Feller, co author of Silent Witnesses: Civilian Camp Money of World War 2 which covers Ghettos, Concentration Camps, Internment Camps, and Displaced Persons Camps for Allied, Axis, and Neutral Countries. She spoke to us about the German show camp of Theresienstadt where camp money was used not only as a medium of exchange but to rob camp residents of their real money and valuables. Next she took us to Australia where innocent Jews were held at a remote area in Camp Hay. Their barbed wire decorated banknotes as "Legal Australian Currency" caused a governmental furor. Finally, we were taken to Crossville, TN where there was an internment camp and a POW camp at this location. A ticket like paper currency was used there. Details of the notes for both the German and Australian camps were discussed in detail. All in all it was an excellent talk which was easy to listen to while enjoying the 200+ items at the no exaggeration in the name Grand Buffet Restaurant..

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

Gold Medal  
Numismatic Achievement  
Literary Award

Robert Gabriel  
Brian Maxfield  
Fred Liberatore

### SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

Bob Fritsch

- \* = Mint Release
- \*4 Nov – Mount Rushmore NM (SD) Quarter
- 10 Nov – Auburn
- 13 NOV – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**
- 17 NOV - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**
- 18 Nov – Centennial Auction, Holiday Inn
- \*21 Nov – 2013 ATB Circ Quarters Set
- 23 Nov – Small Cents II Auction**
- 24 Nov – Westford
- 8 Dec – Auburn
- 11 DEC – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**

# Collecting Foreign Coins

F.A. Liberatore

Most coin collectors start, logically enough, with the coins near at hand. Lincoln cents from 1959 and Jefferson nickels from 2000 make nice, easy to find, inexpensive coin sets to complete. All of these coins can be found in circulation. Roosevelt dimes from 1965 are another fun collection to assemble. Of course, the state quarters and now the national park quarters also make attractive sets to assemble. Beginning collectors can ignore the proofs, they just don't circulate. Of course many other coin sets for the US are possible but then the cost factor enters which can easily discourage young collectors. That's when the first foreign coins can step in, specifically, our neighbor to the north, Canada. Canadian coins are in the cent through half dollar the same size as US coins and so fit our coin holders perfectly. For many sets, Canadian holders already exist. The minor coins turn up in circulation occasionally which is how many collectors are introduced to these coins. Much Canadian coinage from the second half of the 20th century, basically the coins of Queen Elizabeth, can be found in junk boxes for small sums. They make a good target for a new foreign coin collector.

Mexico is the next logical target for a foreign coin collector. The coinage history of the country is the deepest and most extensive of any country in the western hemisphere stretching back to the mid 16th century. For the new foreign coin collector, coins of the 20th century in base metals are a natural collecting area. These coins also appear frequently in poundage and junk boxes. Because of the problems with inflation and revaluations, Mexico's coinage of the past 60 years has featured many types in nearly every denomination. Their designs are quite variable. In decent condition the coins are rather attractive. Again, most can be found in poundage and junk boxes. Better specimens can be had from many dealers for small sums.

Island coinages from the Caribbean are abundant in junk boxes and can make fascinating collections. These coins often feature the fish, birds, animals and flowers of the islands. Collectors had better like the portrait of Queen Elizabeth because many of the coins were issued in her name. Minor proof coins from these island nations can even be found in junk boxes on occasion. Some of the minors are even cent or nickel size and will fit nicely in US coin holders if a date set is in the area of interest. Rare and common dates are the same price due to lack of collector demand.

Central and South America have a gaggle of independent countries that have issued coins in abundance. Their base metal coinage is quite extensive. Junk boxes are loaded with their base metal coinage. Many types are very attractively designed. Since there is little interest in these coins, common and rare dates again are mostly the same price. Foreign coins from European countries also tend to load up the junk boxes and poundage. Again, there are many attractive types especially from countries such as Italy, France, Portugal, and the Scandinavian countries. Great Britain and Ireland also have coins of interest. Coins from times of troubles, especially WW2 can be easily found and make an attractive type collection. History comes alive with these collections.

Asian and African coins do not appear as abundantly in junk boxes but they can be fascinating. Colonial coins, coins from newly independent countries, and coins from times of troubles all do turn up. The one cost that is unavoidable in foreign coin collecting is that of books. Without the knowledge gained by reading coin books and general history, the coins are meaningless metal discs to the new collector. I would advise any collector planning to get into foreign coins to buy a copy of Krause's Standard Catalog of World coins. Read it first and then start your Happy Collecting.

What's new at

## Nashua Coin and Jewelry.....

Cold weather is upon us and the coin business has been a little cold recently. Nothing very interesting has come in for a while, although we have been steady and busy, just nothing of great numismatic interest has come in.

Our last auction was fun with a nice collection of Morgan dollars, 1878-1891 being the highlight. Brisk bidding, everything sold, and the consigner was happy. Wish that was always the case.

Next Coin Auction is scheduled for November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the weekend before thanksgiving. Hope to see some of you there. Included this time will be a large accumulation of Lincoln and Jefferson nickels, mostly circulated for the average collector and several large wheat cent lots.

As we gear up for the holidays and the winter season just a reminder that we will offer all club members 20 percent off on coin books and albums plus discounts on Whites Metal Detectors.

Our monthly collectibles auctions continue and our next one will be held Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. This one should be chock full of new purchases as we just bought out an old antique store and will have a lot of material from the late 1800's and the turn of the century. So stop by and check us out.

Until next month, regards to everyone and as my daughter in law says, "Happy Numismatizing!"

### Book Suggestion Fred Liberatore

Collecting Medieval Coins: A Beginners Guide by Paul A. Torigo. As discussed during a prior meeting, Amazon should charge somewhere between 15 and 18 dollars plus some shipping. Do NOT pay \$47.50!!!

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS



28 Hatch Street  
Nashua, NH 03060

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R-2468

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Phone queries may be made to 603-533-8662, or to email [info@nashuacoinclub.org](mailto:info@nashuacoinclub.org). The club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.

Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.

**NEXT MEETING**  
*13 November at the Nashua  
Public Library, Nashua, NH*

**NOVEMBER'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH**

**Foreign Coins**

JAI - SCABS



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

November 2013  
Volume 17 Number 11  
Whole Number 213

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
13 November 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:09 PM by Vice President Bob Gabriel with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirteen members and one guest were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved. A recap of the Manchester Coin & Currency Expo was presented by Bob F. The White Elephant Sale will be at our December meeting. All proceeds to go to the club. Please limit total to one bag or box of items. Included will be the 1/10 gold buffalo the club won from the ANA trivia contest. Library book reception has been mixed. Further discussion on next year's book plan is needed. Bob F is going to pass along the elongated machine to the club. It was suggested to offer some form of compensation. This will be revisited in January. Bob G proposed raising the attendance raffle to \$.50 so he could buy a beer if he won but this was quickly shot down.

The attendance raffle of \$3.50 was won by Charlie and the COTM raffle was won by Matthew. It included some great pieces such as a 1993 Jamaica 5 cent; a Mexican 1956 5 cent; a 1972 Yugoslavian 5 dinars; a 1917 English penny, a 1980 Belgium 20 centimes, a 1978 Ireland 5p; a 1985 Australian dollar; a 1961 English half crown, and a 1967 Canadian centennial cent.

Fred discussed his coin of the month article on foreign coins. Talk circled around what used to be found in junk boxes and overall increases in the prices/value of foreign coins. Fred then showed his 2012 Republic of France 10 Euro piece. He was suspect of its authenticity but was assured by other club members that it was real. Bob F. had a series of 5 Palau \$1 endangered species coins. Todd had two coins minted in the US and designed by Charles Barber; an 1883 Hawaii dollar and a 1915 Cuban peso. Cliff sent around

his 2006 \$20 Canadian CN Tower hologram coin; a 2009 Perth Mint young collector space coin set of Australian \$1 coins; a 2010 Australian dollar commemorating 100 years of coinage and a set of Australian coins from the last time he was there. Brian passed around the room a 1984 100 franc piece from France, a 1990 German 10 mark commemorating the Barbarossa anniversary, a 1939 Zurich Expo piece from Switzerland, and a 1958 Vatican sede vacante 500 lire, a 1988 Canadian Calgary Olympics Goalie coin in proof, and finally a 2008 Hindenburg 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary coin. John had a very diverse set of coins including 1933 Hong Kong, 1960's Netherland Antilles that he gave to our YN Matthew. He also had a 1964 Bermuda crown, a 1965 Canadian dollar, and a 1948 5 pesos from Mexico. Ron had a real nice looking 2 piece set from Ireland dated 2013 commemorating JFK's death. Matthew showed a 1948 Cuban 20 centavos in VF condition. Bob G showed a 1971 Britain's first decimal coins set that he gave to Matthew as well. Charlie followed up with a Indian ½ rupee with a worn date.

This kicked off show and tell as Fred showed a INB certified proof 70 1971-S cent. That led us to the COTM for January. It will be various slabs/slabbing companies. Due to the general increased value of coins that are in holders no COTM drawing will be held.

The meeting was closed at 8:50.PM. The next meeting is the White Elephant Sale Wednesday, December 11. There is no coin of the month for December.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2013

**Bob Fritsch**

\* = Mint Release

\*8 Dec – Auburn  
**11 DEC – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY,  
7PM**  
**15 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**  
22 Dec – Westford

# Pickers and Wooden Nickels

Bob Gabriel

This summer I was contacted by a picker. Pickers have gotten a lot of publicity of late especially with the television show "American Pickers" running continuously on the History Channel. Anyway, the picker who resides in Massachusetts and sets up in a Milford Road Co-op unearthed a large lot of wooden nickels from an estate sale. The lot was in excess of 3,000 pieces. Of course someone gave him my name (I wonder why) and he contacted me to see if I was interested. He said there were many duplicates in the lot and wanted to know if I would make him an offer. Surprisingly, I was talking to the Honorable Bob Fritsch about the find and low and behold he had been contacted and offered the very same lot. Naturally he told me what he had offered for them and with that information I had a leg up – or so I thought. When the picker brought the lot of woods to my office I looked them over rather quickly. I did note that there were hundreds of doubles on one design in particular. When asked to submit my offer, knowing what had already been offered, I put in an offering a little higher than what Bob offered but lower than I would have offered without the inside information. Naturally, the picker replied "for that low amount I'll use them for kindling" which is funny because that is exactly what my wife tells me she'll do with my entire collection should anything happen to me!

I countered with a flat rate offer of \$100 instead of offering a per piece price. With a little bit of banter back in forth the offer was accepted and handshake was followed by the payment. The woods were transferred to me and the picker left saying that if he happens on more wood he'll be back to see me.

Now the task of looking through the hoard. I brought them home and set up a ~~wooden table~~ in the living room which was

# My favorite coin in my collection

Matthew Porter

In my collection of various foreign coins, one has particularly kept my interest at its peak. This coin comes from the country of Cuba and weighs a total of five grams. It was designed by engraver Charles Edward Barber who was the Chief Engraver of the Philadelphian U.S. Mint. It comes from the Cuban First Republic (1902- 1962). This design was struck from 1915 to 1949 and has 4.4976 grams of silver, with a fineness of 0.900, and content Troy Oz. of 0.1446. 6,830,000 coins of this design were minted.

I chose to discuss this coin because of its silver content, with the star and its many rays, and its motto "Fatherland and Freedom" on the reverse. On the obverse I was intrigued by the Cuban code of arms and its laurel wreaths. Thank you fellow coin club members for your time spent in reading this.

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wife wasn't to happy with. But I insured her that it would only be there a couple days because I was excited about sorting through the pieces and expressed my hopes of finding some additions to my extensive NH collection. Of the 3,000 plus pieces I'd say 2,000 were from NH and the other 1,000 or so were from various states with many duplicates of those as well.

After carefully sorting, separating by city and stacking them in like groups, I report the following: The lions share was from the Dolloff Coin Center in Portsmouth NH from the years 1965 to 1973. There were other NH official pieces from Washington NH Bicentennial 1976, Barrington NH 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1972, Lee NH Bicentennial 1966, Stratham NH 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1966, Madbury NH 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1968, and Deerfield NH 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1966 in various colors. On the common side there were many pieces from Warren's Furniture Dover NH, The Tattoo Shop Portsmouth NH, and a few for a candidate for Mayor of Manchester NH named Basinow, along with a half dozen or so NH pieces issued by the State itself in 1969.

In summary – I was both pleased to acquire the woods but disappointed that there were so many duplicates. I pulled out all the official pieces and kept most of the various NH pieces to use for trading with fellow collectors. I replaced the 200 or so pieces I kept and added 200 back from my stash to keep the entire lot around the 3,300 in size. I'm going to list the mega lot on eBay over the holidays and see what it will bring. Well – that will be a story for another time. I did end up adding a few pieces to my collection.

Don't forget collecting and trading wooden nickels is fun and it's an affordable hobby. So, have fun, happy collecting, and remember "don't take any Wooden Nickels!"

# Coin Cleaning and Restoration

F.A. Liberatore

If ever there were loaded topics in coin collecting, these have to be them. In an ideal world, coin cleaning and restoration simply would not happen. However, chemically, the world is a tough place. We humans also do quite a bit of damage to coins beyond the simple use of them.

All coins except those made of platinum and gold will tarnish. (Some rare metals not widely used in coins also will not tarnish: iridium, osmium, ruthenium etc.) The tarnish can be sulfides, chlorides, carbonates, oxides etc. On some ancient and perhaps medieval coins a hard, glossy patina of chemical corrosion develops which is quite attractive and should NEVER be removed. These coins have an enhanced value and are prized by collectors. Most other ancient coins are cleaned in some manner either electrochemically or by baths in olive oil, formic acid, 10 % sulfuric acid etc. The intent is to remove corrosion and dirt but leave sound metal behind. Sometimes this works wonders and rescues a nice coin but at times a marginal coin is ruined as deep corrosion caused pits are exposed. I've had it go both ways which has made me even more cautious.

Modern coins, especially proofs are even more problematic to clean. Although fires and floods and the like ruin many coins, I do believe that the major enemies of coin survival are the collectors themselves. Cabinet friction and old tarnish are the results of mishandling from the past. Mints and modern collectors add additional insults with the various supplied holders featuring papers, felts, and plastics that contain reactive materials. The sulfur in paper, and I expect some felt lined coin boxes, does quite a number on coins so stored. The tarnish from sulfur loaded paper can happen rapidly but more likely take years to decades. The other big offender is PVC-polyvinyl chloride- a clear, flexible plastic widely used for coin holders by mints, dealers, and collectors. This plastic bleeds plasticizers and acid and will slowly turn coins a slimy green while corroding their surfaces.

So, how does one clean modern coins. Soap and water followed by a long rinse and drying with a non abrasive towel is a good first step for ordinary dirt. A paste of baking soda is another cleaning agent that is very mild and should do no harm, again followed by a long rinse and careful drying. PVC slime is best removed by acetone, a polar and happily water soluble, organic solvent. A water rinse and drying should do the trick. If not, try the soap and water. And finally the baking soda if more cleaning is needed. Be advised that any corrosion is permanent.

Another mild cleaning agent is simply a long soak in just olive oil (weeks to months.) This can loosen corrosion while leaving the remaining metal of the coin undamaged. A soap and water wash and thorough rinsing should follow this oil treatment. It can work wonders on some coins but all the surface damage caused by the corrosion will remain.

Seriously corroded modern coins can be cleaned with 10 % sulfuric acid followed by a water rinse. EF and AU coins of good metal compositions can come out looking pretty decent. Some copper and silver coins were nicely cleaned but coins of alloys with magnesium, aluminum, zinc did not do well at all. In the end, no matter how good these coins look, they remain cleaned coins.

All of the dips that restore original coin luster are removing tarnish which means some metal atoms from a coin's surface. Dipped coins have an unnatural tone and can often be spotted among their naturally toned cousins.

Coin restoration can remove holes, gouges, reeding damage etc and make a really pretty specimen. However, this is still an altered coin.

Coins that are fully identified as cleaned or restored are ok by me. Still as a purist I will always value the original, untouched coin more. When a cow turd is compressed, colored, and highly polished, what do you still have? Yes, a cow turd. If a coin is cleaned with anything stronger than what you would use on a baby's skin what do you have? Yup, a cleaned coin. acids, acetone, and coin dips all fall in that category. Still I do buy cleaned coins since it is all a part of Happy Collecting.

# Appreciating Tokens

By Brian Maxfield

Being a collector of United States coins, for many years I had never really had any interest in tokens. Over the last five years or so I have come to appreciate tokens and the history that they hold. I have been collecting Civil War Patriotic tokens for many years, a series with hundreds of different die and metal combinations (and likely many which have yet to be discovered). I have also collected Lowell related numismatic items. I recently came across a listing for a token from Lowell on eBay. One side reads 1920/LOWELL, MASS./I SERVE. The other side reads COMMUNITY SERVICE INC. This caught my eye not only due to the Lowell connection but also being a social worker; the Community Service notation caught my eye. One of the neat things about coming across a token like this is the pleasure and education in researching the history.

I set out to see what I could find out about the token. At first glance it appears to a token given out to members in appreciation of their service. The most obvious place to start a search nowadays is the computer. I entered in keywords from the token to see what I could find. Nothing much was coming up. Different combinations of words sometimes will pull up different sites. I finally hit on something. An agency in Lowell called Girls Inc. had its beginnings in 1917 when a group of women started the "War Community Service." This would seemingly have been due to our entry into World War I in

1917. No other information about this group or what happened could be located on line. My next visit was to the Lowell Public Library. I searched through some of the history books and City Directories. In the 1920 Directory there is a listing for the "Lowell Community Service Club"

which was located on the "4<sup>th</sup> floor Runels Building, Lowell." There was no other significant information that I was able to locate.

Given the bits and pieces I did find I would speculate that the "War Community Service" probably had no need to keep the title of "War" in their name after the end of the war in 1919. I believe that this likely led to a change to "Lowell Community Service Club." If so, this would have been the beginnings of Girls Inc., an agency still currently in existence. The history on the website says "it has undergone many growth cycles in order to address the changing needs of the community." Not definitive proof of the source of the token but certainly a very warm lead. This is the kind of enjoyment and education tokens can provide.

Another interesting angle is that the person I purchased them from is from Canada! In fact he had about 30 of the tokens. He acquired them from someone who was selling off his collection but did not remember how he acquired them. I'm sure that the journey that these tokens have been on for the past 90+ years would be very interesting. I have decided to purchase the whole lot, assuring that the tokens will come full circle back home.

# WANTED



## New Hampshire Wooden Nickels

Please email [bgabrielone@yahoo.com](mailto:bgabrielone@yahoo.com)



2013 OFFICERS  
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VP - Robert Gabriel  
VP - Bill Roberts  
VP - Charlie Dube  
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Treasurer - Todd Salmon  
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Librarian - Robert Drew  
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Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.

## **NEXT MEETING**

*11 December at the Nashua  
Public Library, Nashua, NH*

## **DECEMBER'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

**White Elephant Auction**

DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>
ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:
<b>Shop Vac</b>	<b>2010 World Almanac</b>	<b>Bag of Wooden Nickels</b>	<b>Bag of Elongateds</b>
\$ 10	\$ 1	\$ 1	\$ 3
By: <i>BG</i>	By: <i>MATT</i>	By: <i>BG</i>	By: <i>MATT</i>

DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>
ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:
<b>Bag of tokens</b>	<b>Bag of medals</b>	<b>Bag of Foreign Coins</b>	<b>6 Lincoln Cent Folders Starting 1975</b>
\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 8	\$ 2
By: <i>BG</i>	By: <i>MATT</i>	By: <i>Fred</i>	By: <i></i>

DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>
ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:
<b>6 Jefferson Nickel Folders Starting 1962</b>	<b>Craig: Coins of the World 1750-1850, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</b>	<b>2001 SCWC</b>	<b>Wooden Dollar Board With cover</b>
\$ 3	\$ 3	\$ <del>1</del>	\$ 1
By: <i></i>	By: <i></i>	By: <i></i>	By: <i></i>

DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>	DONATED BY: <b>BOB FRITSCH</b>
ITEM DESCRIPTION:	ITEM DESCRIPTION:
<b>100 Flips</b>	<b>Forrer: The Art of Collecting Coins 1955</b>
\$ <i>920</i>	\$ <i>150</i>
By: <i>CD</i>	By: <i>Dag</i>

*3  
5  
5  
32*





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

December 2013  
Volume 17 Number 12  
Whole Number 214

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
11 December 2013

The meeting was opened at 7:15 PM by President Brian Maxfield with the Pledge of Allegiance. Seventeen members and 3 guests were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting and Treasurer's report were approved. Bob F discussed the ANA awards. Fred mentioned the availability of the US Legacy set at the mint and it's low mintage potential. Randy shared a quick story of a Mercury dime set he won at Gary's auction last month. He sent one of the coins off to ANACS for certification and it came back as a 1942/1 XF 40. It is worth many multiples what he paid for it.

The attendance raffle of \$4.75 was won by Kevin. The coin of the month for January is slabs. There will be no COTM raffle due to the relatively higher value of most slabbed coins. In addition to 2014 dues being collected the January meeting will include the annual club elections.

John led off the White Elephant sale with a quick history of the name. Our auctioneer Charlie wasted no time going to the highlight piece of the auction. It was the 2008 PF-69 1/10 oz gold buffalo the club won for the ANA coin week trivia contest. This netted \$450 and was one of the best bargains of the night. Other top items were a bag of Ikes, two token lots, and Q. David Bowers grading book. The auction netted the club \$811.50. Charlie was assisted by runners Al and Ken who combined to make the evening very fun and enjoyable.

The meeting was closed at 8:55PM. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 8.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2014 Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release, \*\* = Month only

- \*2 Jan – Civil Rights Dollar
- 8 JAN – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**
- 9-12 Jan – FUN Orlando
- 10-12 Jan – NY International
- 12 Jan – Auburn
- 18 Jan – Small Cents II Auction**
- 19 JAN - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**
- 26 Jan – Westford
- 27 Jan – Centennial Auction, Holiday Inn
- \*\*Jan – 2014 ATB Quarters Proof Set
- \*\*Jan – 2014 ATB Quarters Silver Proof Set
- \*\*Jan – 2014 Proof Silver Eagle
- \*\*Jan – Smoky Mountains (TN) ATB Quarter
- \*\*Jan – 2014 Sets: Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Birth
- 9 Feb – Auburn
- 12 FEB – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**
- 14-15 Feb – NH Coin & Currency Expo, Manchester
- 16 FEB - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**
- 23 Feb – Westford
- 27 Feb-1 Mar – ANA NMS Atlanta**
- \*\*Feb – Warren Harding Dollar
- \*\*Feb – 2014 Kennedy Half
- \*\*Feb – 2014 Presidents Proof Set
- 9 Mar – Auburn
- 12 MAR – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM**
- 14-15 Mar – Bay State Marlboro
- 16 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN**
- 23 Mar – Willimantic, CT
- No 23 Mar – Westford**
- \*\*Mar – 2014 Native American Dollar
- \*\*Mar – 2014 Proof Set
- \*\*Mar – Shenandoah (VA) ATB Quarter

# The Trouble in Slabland

F. A. Liberatore

According to a columnist in the Numismatic News, the arcane MS 1-70 grading system was proposed by Dr. Sheldon for grading large cents and was a marriage of grade and dollar value at the time it was proposed for use. He also stated that the grading situation had become "catastrophic" by the 1970's.

I was a collector during the 1970's and never had any grading problems and was unaware that there were any grading problems. The dealers and collectors did not seem to have any problems. My thinking is that the investors and speculators were the ones having the problems. (In those years a friend told me that coin collecting was no longer the hobby and past time of collectors but had become BIG BUSINESS.) So, the ANA (I've always believed this is an organization of, by, and for coin dealer interests) came up with the brilliant idea of MS grading married to a special new system to insure correctly graded coins and thus the ANACS grading service and SLABS! were born.

It did not take long for other sharpies to realize that the slabbing and grading business was a chance to make piles of money. Many strange grading services appeared. Oh boy, a new catastrophic grading situation had reared its ugly head. Slabs also created another diversion called crack-a-slab. Collectors searched for under graded coins in slabs, cracked them out and sent them out again looking for a higher grade. If a slabbed coin came back with a grade you didn't like, crack the slab and send it elsewhere. Minute changes in grade now meant HUGE changes in value courtesy of a system that has TEN grades of uncirculated. Recent advice has been to grade the coin and not trust the slabbed coin grade. Curious, we're back to the past but still stuck with the slabs and MS system. More funny business has occurred in the slab world, counterfeit slabs from China no doubt to keep their counterfeit

coins company. Slabbing is not cheap \$10-30 or more per coin which adds significantly to the cost of less valuable coins. Slabbed coins also take up a lot of space.

Happily for many years the problems in slabland were confined to US coins but more recently ancient and foreign coins have wound up entombed in slabs. Recently, I saw that this had become serious when I was offered Mexican Revolutionary coins of common types in slabs for between \$75 and \$100. I bought an identical coin last year for \$8 and was offered another for \$20. The dealer told me it cost \$30/coin for the slabbing thus the higher price for a grade verified coin that was guaranteed to be genuine.

Slab grading had become so problematic that a company saw a chance to make money off of the slabbers by certifying the slabs grade and thus the CAC approval sticker of slab grades was born. Another firm has decided they will perform the same service for ancient coins in slabs. Whoopee, how did we live without them? Where do I know the slabbers provide a real service to the coin community, dealers and collectors alike? Forgery detection is where they really shine. The Chinese forgers have become very sophisticated and only a sophisticated analytical service can have any chance of staying ahead of them. Today, it is difficult to sell any really rare coin unless a reputable slabbing service has verified that the coin is genuine. As for the grading, well that is still open to debate, CAC approvals and all.

For me slabbed coins largely do not exist. I own a few but bought the coin as I graded it. The slab just happened to be there. Most slabbed coins have an unattractive price so I pass them by. Still most foreign and ancient coins are not slabbed so for me there is still happy collecting



## Circulation Finds

By Brian Maxfield

Hope everyone had a great Holiday! An interaction during the Holiday's gave me the idea for this article. We hosted Christmas dinner at our house. Almost twenty people out of an expected twenty two showed up. One particular relative knows that I collect coins. Although he is not a collector himself, he gets enjoyment trying to find "rare" or interesting coins in circulation. This is usually limited to a few wheat cents and maybe a dateless buffalo nickel or silver dime as a great circulation find. These are presented to me as he comes through the door, greeting us and thanking us for our hospitality. This Christmas was no different. He dropped two coins into my hand stating "one wheat cent and one I don't know but it looks interesting. Not expecting much I looked the coins over. Indeed there was a 1958 wheat cent. The other coin at first glance could have mistaken for a very beat up clad dime. A closer look quickly revealed an 1881 three cent nickel coin!! It was pretty corroded but was there is no mistaking the coin or the date. In this condition it is not worth more than a few dollars but the story it has to tell is something I certainly would have loved to hear. Was this accidentally spent by someone thinking it was a dime? Maybe someone spent it purposely knowing the value was nominal? Although not valuable, this rates a "10" for the cool factor in my book.

I also began to wonder what other club member stories there might be related to circulation finds. Given the age of many of our members (with all due respect!), I'm sure many of us were searching during the 60's when decent circulation finds were still common. I had many paper routes when younger. As silver disappeared during the later 60's and into the early 70's I could dump \$25 in change on the table and know in an instant if there was one silver coin in the mix. Once you know that sound it becomes engrained. At one point I sold newspapers in front of a church after each mass. To this day I remember getting 50 cents from one woman, all silver coins including a Barber Dime!! As someone eleven or twelve years old and well into my passion of coin collecting I can tell you it made my week.

All you have to do is read the weekly "Letters to the Editor" in Numismatic News to understand the enjoyment that coin collectors get in looking through circulation for those special finds. It reminds me that someone finding a worn 1939-D Jefferson Nickel to fill a slot in a Whitman album might actually be more exciting than buying that Uncirculated 1950-D Jefferson. Somehow, the thrill of the find adds to the aura. If you have a special circulation find or story, bring it to the next meeting. I enjoy hearing these types of stories that really convey just how much this hobby means to all of us.



## Vice Presidents Message

Bob Gabriel

I'd like to take a few minutes and talk about the club – our club. We have a diverse group of individuals to say the least. I know we have members who collect all aspects of numismatics including a broad range of exonumia. We currently have about 35 members and over the last 25 years (our records only go back so far back) membership peaked around 45 a while back. We have 1 original member, Charlie Dube member #13 who continues to be an active participant in club affairs and is our longstanding designated white elephant auctioneer. Our next senior member is Don Pickering member #49. We have members from a large geographic area, including Michael Turini in California and Bart Bartonowicz in Florida.

Over the last year year we have seen new members come and go. We had a couple female members, one being Lynda who seemed to very much enjoy the meetings. Recently we have 2 new adult members, Ron and Tom, and 2 new young numismatists, Matthew and Sam. It puzzles me that some members come regularly and then stop all of a sudden for whatever reason. I believe if we had a membership directory this would help us reach out to those who may merely need a ride to a meeting or someone just to talk to with a word of encouragement. Of course membership information would be limited to whatever contact information the individual would be comfortable seeing published. It could be as simple as a name and cell number or in my case everything from soup to nuts would be fine. We should discuss this topic at a future meeting.

Our last meeting – being the annual "white elephant" sale which is our only organized fund-raiser, drew great attendance even joyously

surpassing our normal monthly attendance figure. Must have been the lure of Charlie with his assistants Ken and Al.

Also, I would like to thank those that wrote articles published in the November newsletter although time did not allow us to discuss them at the meeting in order for us to move quickly to the mission of the evening – the auction!

I'll close by saying that a club is only as good as its members and we should all take it upon ourselves to talk to other members and reach out to those we see missing from the monthly meetings. Again, thank you all for your membership and participation, especially those that withstand adverse weather and trail great distances to attend our monthly meetings.

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## Newsletter Stamp Inventory

Randy Bullis

Welcome to 2014 and a new postage increase. Newsletters will now cost 49 cents each to mail out. Even though we still had \$36.05 in postage, I needed additional to be able to make the correct change. Here is a run down of what we have and what I have recently purchased. The recent purchase on ebay netted us \$100 face stamps for \$75 with free shipping! Yes, it's true! 25 percent off and free shipping!

This group has 200 .32 cent stamps and 164 .22 cent stamps. Current stamps we own are 71 .22 cent stamps; 17 .21 cent; 5 .175 cent; 12 .14 cent; 83 .17 cent; and 10 .02 cent stamps. With the new purchase, a combination of a .32 and a .17 will make the proper postage. This will last for 4 mailings and then I will need to buy some 5 cent stamps to mix with 2 .22 cent stamps to finish the year.

# A Quick History of Slabs

Randy Bullis

The American Numismatic Association, like you'd expect, was the first to begin certifying coins in the early 70's, but only as genuine or not. ANACS, beginning in 1979, began accepting coins and certifying grades on them. The coin world will never be the same again. Prices began to rocket to the moon on higher grade coins. The only problem is that by the mid 80's, the coins were being discounted or re-graded by dealers and collectors alike in large numbers due to inconsistency in the grading standards. ACG was started around the mid 80's by Alan Hager and began certifying coins and their grades in sealed plastic capsules nicknamed "slabs". Considered counterfeit proof since the container would show the signs of forced entry, slabs would be the safeguard of the industry and would protect the common collector from suffering from dealer downgrade when buying or selling coins.

Enter the ring, PCGS. Formed in 85-86, a group of highly respected dealers decided the time had come to make sure a coin certification company stood on principles of strict industry standards. They followed the general ones and also created a few of their own. They needed to, not too many collectors and dealers were used to splitting hairs on uncirculated coins at that time and there was a big market with a lot of cash waiting for just this thing.

NGC started up soon after PCGS but by a different group of dealers that also thought strict standards should be followed. They also offered a money back refund just like PCGS in the event a collector gets burned by a coin mis-graded by them.

Hallmark grading service began in 1987 by David Bowers. It too, used the sealed slab design. It was sold in 91 to PCI. PCI still grades coins today and still uses the same slab design.

One notable grading company was Compugrade, started in 1991. Their claim to fame: using a computer to analyze and grade the coin in question. Yep, you guessed it. It didn't work.

SEGS and ICG started around 1998 and both had the idea that having a third party receiving service accept the coins from the numismatists and then submit them to the grading company, would give these companies accreditation and show no favoritism. I've got to admit, just when I didn't think a different slab could be designed, along came these two. Two words, incredible plastic.

Believe it or not, there are many other grading companies, so numerous, a book can be written on them. Matter of fact, sampleslabs. com has Third Party Grading/Certification Services book written by Michael Schmidt for sale. Check this site out if you would like to see every variety of PCGS slabs discussed, as well as other companies.

## Some of the many grading companies

ACCS	Ancient Coin Certification Service by David Sear
PCGS	Professional Coin Grading Service
NGC	Numismatic Guaranty Corporation
ACG	Accugrade
ANACS	American Numismatic Association Certification Service
DCGS	Digital Coin Grading Service
GCS	Global Certification Service
ICG	Independent Coin Grading Co.
INS	International Numismatic Society
INGS	International Grading Service
NCI	Numismatic Certification Institute
NTC	NumisTrust Corporation
PCI	Photo-Certified Coin Institute
SEGS	Sovereign Entities Grading Service
SGS #1	Strategic Grading Service
SGS #2	Star Grading Service
ICCS	International Coin Certification Service
CCCS	Canadian Coin Certification Service

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Phone queries may be made to 603-533-8662, or to email info@nashuacoinclub.org. The club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.

Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.

## ***NEXT MEETING 8 January at the Nashua Public Library, Nashua, NH***

## **JANUARY'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

**Slabbed Coins**